

ORLANDO **Attractions** M A G A Z I N E

AttractionsMagazine.com

Spring 2014

Volume 7, Issue 2

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Disney's MyMagic+

**Your Complete Guide to
MagicBands and FastPass+**

**Collecting
Pressed
Pennies**

**Disney Details
on Main Street**

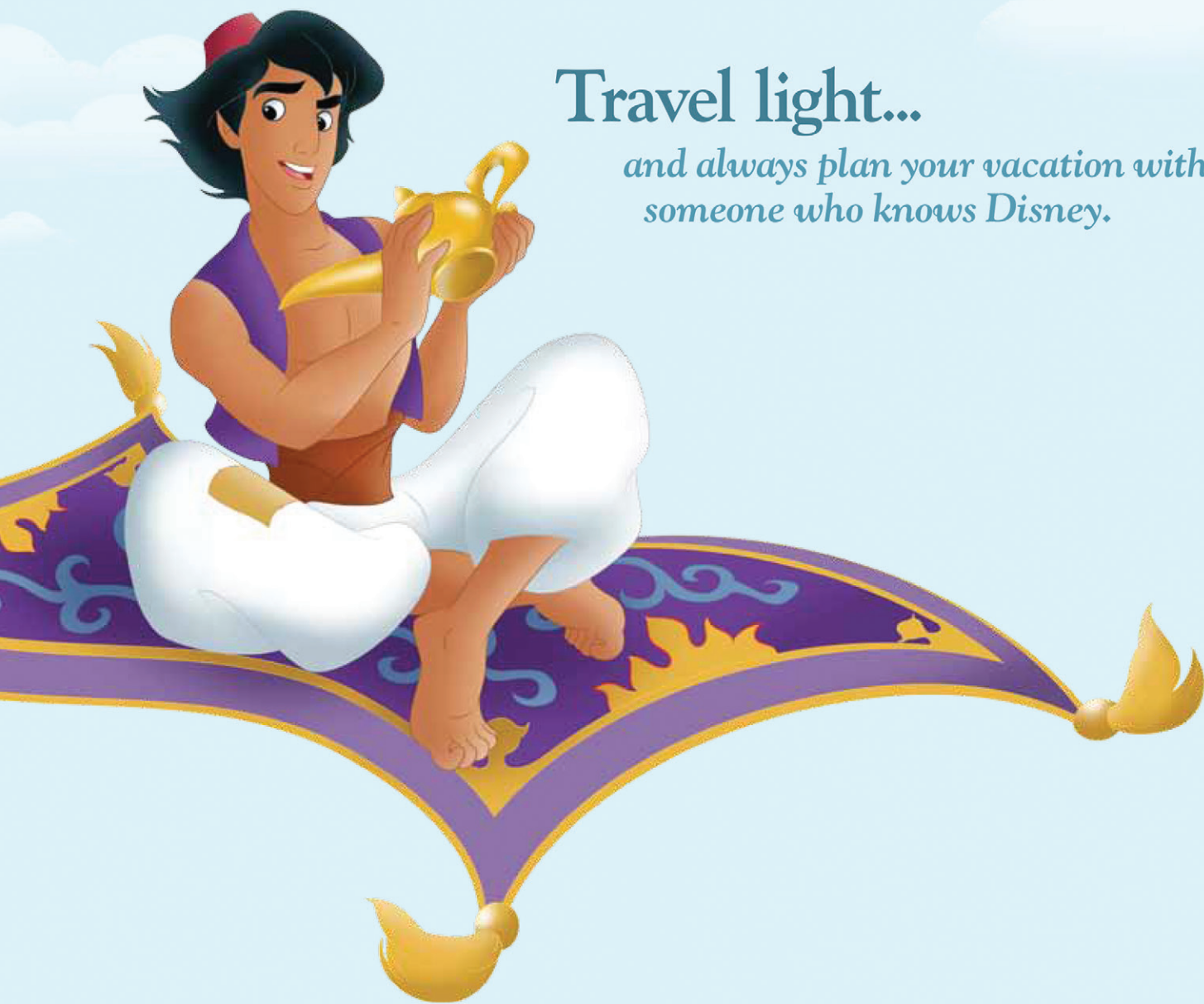
PLUS

**Games, Cartoons,
Rumors, Resorts,
Updates & More!**

**Q&A with
Legoland's
General Manager**

**Review of
Epcot's New
Spice Road Table**

**Top 10 Photo Opps
at Disney World**



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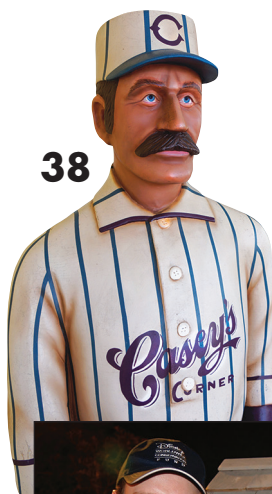
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A guest uses their MagicBand to enter a Walt Disney World theme park. Read all about the bands on page 32.

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THESE STORIES AND MORE...

In addition to the stories and photos in this magazine, check our website regularly for even more, plus many videos. Stay up-to-date with all the latest theme park and attraction news through our weekly video shows, download our free iPhone/iPad app and sign up for our free e-mail newsletter.



DISNEY'S FASTPASS+ FAQ

Check page 32 for our full report on Disney's new MyMagic+ system, but if you still have questions and want to see it in action, watch the Jan. 23 episode of "Orlando Attractions Magazine - The Show" where host Banks Lee explains how the FastPass+ system works for guests and annual passholders with and without MagicBands. Also visit our website for an updated Q&A.



FOOTBALL PARADES DOWN MAIN STREET USA

Two big football victories were celebrated at Magic Kingdom. After the University of Central Florida's victory at the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, the team and employees paraded down Main Street. A few weeks later, linebacker and Super Bowl XLVIII MVP Malcolm Smith of the Seattle Seahawks paraded through the Magic Kingdom as well, celebrating the team's win. Visit our website for our photo gallery, blog post and videos of both events.

DISNEY FESTIVAL OF FANTASY PARADE



As a part of Fashion Week, Walt Disney World gave media a close-up look at the new costumes and floats for the Festival of Fantasy Parade at Magic Kingdom. Check our online photo gallery and video of the event. Also be on the lookout for our full video of the parade, as it most likely will have started by the time you read this.



A CELEBRATION OF HARRY POTTER

A Celebration of Harry Potter expo was held this past January at Universal Orlando. The expo featured stars from the films, Q&A's, presentations and much more. We were there to bring you all the latest Wizarding World news. Check our website for a photo gallery and blog posts from the event. We've also posted over half a dozen videos from the event including a segment on the Jan. 30 episode of "Orlando Attractions Magazine -The Show" dedicated to it.



LIVE FROM THE PARKS

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/attractions and our Facebook page at facebook.com/attractionsmagazine. We frequently post on-the-spot information, photos and short videos while we're inside Orlando's theme parks. You can also be notified of our latest videos if you subscribe to our YouTube channel at youtube.com/attractionsmagazine.





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FROM THE EDITOR



I want to tell you a little bit about the timing of our MyMagic story. Although you'll see we don't speak with Disney in the story, we were able to confirm all the information. Since the system is still in a testing phase, some things may change. But we don't expect big changes.

Disney started testing MagicBands and FastPass+ about a year ago, and at the time said it would be fully rolled out by the end of 2013. So since things were new and we had an official launch date, we decided to wait on the story. Disney doesn't usually speak with the media about things they are testing. But the end of the year rolled around and things were still in testing. Then Disney closed all the "legacy" Fastpass machines and made it so all guests had to use the FastPass+ system. Since the testing is still ongoing with no clear launch date, and all guests are being forced to use the new system, we felt it was the right time for our story to run. Read it over and try the new system out on your next visit, if you haven't already. Then please write to us and let us know what you think.

Have Fun,
Matt Roseboom
Editor/Publisher

told her we were going to go out on the boat and have a picnic and see views of the park that we hadn't seen before. It was a sunny day, but it was windy, so every time I tried to get in position "in front" of the castle, the wind kept pushing the boat away. On top of that, all of the boats shuttling guests to the Magic Kingdom were passing by and I did not want to get in their way. I was finally able to get where I wanted to be and went to the bow of the boat where she was sitting, got down on one knee, and proposed. She said yes and as she was hugging me, I saw one of the shuttle boats coming our way along with one of the the marine patrol workers. The marine patrol worker pulled up to us and I apologized, thinking he was going to tell us we were in the way and told him I had just proposed. He smiled and congratulated us and told us he was actually coming over to make sure the shuttle boat kept clear of us. We asked him if he could take a photo of us and before he did, he told me to get down on one knee to re-enact it. He then took the photo! We bought a personalized frame with the date on it from one of the shops on Main Street and now have a nice keepsake of the day we got engaged. We have since been married and still go to Disney World once or twice a year!

Tom and Lynda Arreola
Livonia, Mich.

installation team. I spent nearly a year living and working day and night at Epcot. It was special for me to share my stories with my daughter.

Chuck Kearsley
Santa Monica, Calif.



WHOLE LOT OF VACATIONIN' GOING ON

Firstly, I'm a 20 year visitor. This is my late father George, a great Jerry Lee Lewis fan standing on the gold Sun Records disc outside the front of the old Orlando Hard Rock Cafe, playing his invisible piano – great memories!

Epcot's famous fireworks are always the last stop on our vacation, and a sad stomach-churning reminder that's it 'till next year. It's a fond, yet sad memory. But I wouldn't change the routine for anything.

Steve Pattison
Scotland U.K.

NON-VACATION HELP

Your show helps me get through the periods of non-vacation time! The highlights of my life are Disney Vacations. I just can't wait 'till next time we can go to Florida and enjoy all the attractions you show us! I can't make it between vacations without you guys!

Anne Kannenberg
Jackson, Wisc.

FIRST TIME MEETING MICKEY

This photo of myself and Mickey is my very first picture I have ever had taken with him. Yes, believe it or not. We were visiting the Animal Kingdom that day, and I said to



MAGICAL PROPOSAL

I just wanted to share a story and photo of my wife and I on the day we got engaged. We were staying at the Grand Floridian in December 2011 and I planned on proposing while we were out on the boat, within view of Cinderella's Castle. I



SPECIAL DAY AT EPCOT

This photo is of my oldest daughter Amy and I during our trip to Epcot in October 2012. She was the only family member available to go with me in order to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Epcot's opening. From 1981-1982, I was part of the WED ride control computer

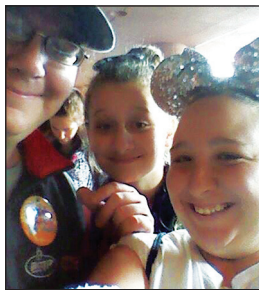
my husband, "I have never had my picture taken with Mickey Mouse". Well, he couldn't believe it. So he said, "Now is your chance!" So, I went to stand in line for my photo with Mickey, wearing my "I'm Celebrating" pin. When it was my turn for the photo, the cast member wanted to know what I was celebrating. I told her my graduation from medical school. The cast member told Mickey and he got all excited for me, shook my hand, gave me a big hug and kiss, and, everyone else in line heard the cast member tell Mickey and gave me a round of applause. Needless to say I blushed big time.



Kathleen Seaman
Dunedin, Fla.

Every year I had gone to Disney, I wanted to try the Kitchen Sink, but it was always just my fiancé and myself, and we knew we would never finish that whole thing! Well in 2012, the whole family was in Orlando for our brother John's Disney wedding. We all made time to get together so we could share the kitchen sink. Finally! And it was delicious!

Jillian Walter
Blackwood, N.J.



three times in a row – LOL!

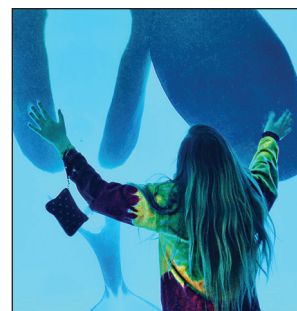
LOVE AT FIRST MEETING

We brought a first timer to Disney World and he fell in love with Ariel. We had to see it

Melissa Fass
Lake Wales Fla.

SHAMU UP-CLOSE

This was my friend Taylor's first time seeing Tilikum up-close like this. She was truly inspired.



Bennett Spack
Orlando, Fla.

JUST IMAGINE

It was a rainy day and it just stopped

THEME PARK TATTOOS

I'm a Harry Potter Fan but I'm a bigger fan of Orlando. I'm a Disney man and I'm a Universal man too. I love the excitement of Orlando, the people and the parks, so my tattoos remind me of my trips to Florida. I love the place and hope to return soon.

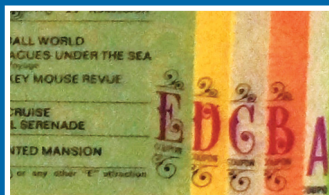
Thomas Fitzgerald
Limerick, Ireland



NO EASY FEAT

This photo was taken at Beaches and Cream (ice cream shop at Disney's Beach Club Resort) with our Kitchen Sink!

THEN ...



AND NOW ...



Disney first introduced ticket books at Disneyland in 1955. They consisted of A, B and C coupons, each allowing guests to experience a different kind of attraction. In 1956, they added the E tickets, which allowed guests to ride the most popular rides in the park. (The reason a great attraction is called an E-Ticket ride.) These ticket books were brought over to Walt Disney World when it opened in 1971. Then in 1982, the ticket books were phased out in favor of all-inclusive tickets which allowed guests to experience everything in the theme parks for one price, as often as they liked. Last year these paper tickets were phased out for hard plastic tickets with RFID chips in them. MagicBands were also introduced last year and now all Disney Resort guests are receiving them instead of tickets. They also have an RFID chip in them so guests can tap to enter the park. You can read all about Disney's new MagicBands on page 32.

We asked our Facebook followers, "What theme park related items do you collect?"

Jeff Reisdorf

I love collecting cups. They're my second favorite thing to own other than patches, but they don't make much of those anymore. My favorite one is my WDI tumbler I bought at the D23 Expo.

Brunna Cellotto Fitti

I collect Minnie Ears. Each time I visit Walt Disney World or Disneyland I get myself a pair of ears and use it all along. I'm planning on making a glass board with them all to decor the nursery when my first child is born.

Tammy Sofield

Pressed coins. I like them because most places have them and they are inexpensive. I have hundreds from Disney and more from all over. I love the ones that have been retired and can not be made anymore.

Emily Wright

I've just started collecting Disney ear hats/headbands. My husband recently got hired by Disney Imagineering and moved to CA. I've been greeting him at the airport with a different set each time.

Brian Skinner

License Plates from Disney, have over one hundred, My favorite is also my very first one from the 15 years celebration, not sure why I stated collecting them. I also collect park maps, have hundreds of them and even ones dating back to the old large "coffee table maps".

Rita Charleen Pope-Chmela

Pins and magnets. I love my DVC ones, because they remind me how fortunate I really am to be a member.

Louise Rogers

I collect pins, Christmas ornaments and snow globes. My favourite snow globe is my 'Share a Dream Come True' one with Ariel, Cinderella and Belle on. I got it for Christmas from my

husband (then boyfriend) after our first trip together which will be ten years ago this November.

Amy Balaban

Pressed pennies. Unique and inexpensive! It's fun to hunt down the pressed penny machines in the parks and resorts! Also, magnets!

Jennifer J Piehl

WDW used to have miniature porcelain characters that I collected all that I could. I liked them because they were small, easy to travel with, great in a display case but did not take up tons of room. They were colorful & very accurate. Wish they still sold them so I could continue my collection. I now collect pins

Brad Mehrose

I collected the legacy (paper) Fastpasses, but I didn't get all of them.

Beth Mann

I collect reusable bags. I use them for grocery shopping and they bring back many memories.

Kathleen Thornton

I love collecting Figments. I have loved him ever since the first time I rode Journey into Imagination. I think it was the song that Dreamfinder sang that made me love Figment.

Sarah Heckman Tittlebaum

I collect the villain pins and pretty much anything villain related. My favorite is a giant print of Maleficent that my husband got me from the DTD art store. Then my husband and I collect the Christmas tree decorations for each year we've been married.

Manda Taylor

We have a pin for every ride we've been on at the parks and I'm a little addicted to collecting pressed pennies.

Kimberly Anne Delcambre

Postcards from the Disney theme

parks. Any Sleeping Beauty ones.

Because they don't cost a lot and they are the art to me.

Kathleen Seaman

T shirts and mugs. I like to wear the T-shirt to show people where I've been. It sometimes can be an actual conversation piece. I get asked a lot about T-shirts that I have. People will say to me "oh.. I've been there." And low and behold a conversation is born.

Sondra Jean

I collect Vinylmations. I have dozens on display in a shot-glass display case (they fit perfectly!). It is a wonderful and colorful memento from my trips.

Braedon Godin

I have a ton of Disney collections, but my absolute favorite are the Disney VHS movies in the hard cases. I have 160 movies, all alphabetized.

Erin McClure VanAuken

My favorite thing to collect in the parks is the maps! Every time we go to a park there's something new and different. My favorite one was from the Magic Kingdom on October 1, 2011 celebrating 40 years! It was so cute and retro looking!

Rose Matonis

Pins and pressed pennies because we are there all the time, have to respect the budget. Also T-shirts because they're conversation starters.

Jillian Walter

I collect magnets and pressed coins. I love to get new magnets from the parks every year I go. And I am trying my best to collect all of the pressed coins I can find!

Linda Bojanowski

Elongated pennies (smashed pennies, souvenir coins) - I have thousands and over 95% of the ones from Florida (including private rolls that

you don't get from locations, most of the privately rolled ones are from the 1960s to early '90s. I also collect Mold-a-Rama figures, the animals, rockets, dinosaurs, etc., that you watch pressed before your eyes. I also like to get a patch of places that I've visited.

Sarah Ryberg

The travel mugs (like the refillable and holiday themed ones). I take tea with me to work every day and using the mugs gives me a little reminder of my trip. My favorite has to be the one I got from Casey's Corner, with the Disney gang riding Space Mountain. It reminds me of waiting for the fireworks with hubby on my birthday.

David Cornell

Snow globes, and anything Halloween Horror Nights. Memories, it's all about memories.

Ken Kahle

I collect photos. I am always seeking out 4 different categories of pictures to take; characters posing alone, the parks without people, backstage or behind-the-scenes shots and hidden Mickeys.

Oniel Gonzalez

I have 19 books of the souvenir pressed pennies and quarters. I've been collecting them since I was a kid and have classics from all the parks that have been discontinued.

Deborah King Evans

Trolls from the Norway pavilion in Epcot and my favourite one is the little boy troll I got on my first visit to Disney World

Brenda Wels Bowden

I used to collect snow globes. My favorites are the Villains and Bambi globes. Now I usually bring home beautiful ceramic bowls from the Japan pavilion at Epcot and gorgeous glass ornaments from Germany.

WRITE TO US!

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JUST FOR KIDS

Location: SeaWorld
Orlando

Dates: Every
Saturday, March 22
through April 12

Cost: Included with
theme park admission
Bring your little ones
to sing, dance and
play the day away at
SeaWorld's Just For
Kids festival. This
event features a
breakfast with
everyone's favorite
furry friends from
Sesame Street,
concerts, live shows,
kid-sized rides and
adorable animals.



STAR WARS WEEKENDS

Location: Disney's Hollywood Studios

Dates: Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 16 through June 15

Cost: Included with theme park admission

Join the celebration of the Star Wars franchise featuring a parade, celebrity meets, memorabilia, character meets and presentations. New this year is a nightly fireworks show and other entertainment.

We've chosen our favorite upcoming events to spotlight. You don't want to miss them on your next trip to Orlando.

All events and dates are subject to change. Please check with the proper organization before attending.

Check AttractionsMagazine.com for up-to-date happenings in the Orlando area.



VIVA LA MUSICA

Location: SeaWorld Orlando

Dates: Every Saturday, April 26 through May 17

Cost: Included with theme park admission

Join the fiesta with live Latin music performed by award-winning artists, Latin cuisine and authentic arts and crafts.



21ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

Location: Epcot

Dates: March 5 through May 18

Cost: Included with theme park admission

See some of your favorite Disney characters throughout the park as topiaries, along with hundreds of others at this year's festival. Listen to live music from your favorite artists of the '60s and '70s in the Flower Power concert series at the American Gardens Theater. Guests can even learn from HGTV stars and Epcot gardening specialists in educational programs and cooking stations. New this year, Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy are making their debut in topiary form to promote the upcoming movie, "Muppets Most Wanted".



CONTACT INFORMATION

SeaWorld Orlando
www.seaworld.com/orlando
(800) 327-2424

Walt Disney World Resort
www.disneyworld.com
(407) 939-6244

STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

New Shops, Eats and More 'Springing' Up

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN DISNEY

With Disney Springs coming in a few short years, construction is heavily underway. Two Starbucks are currently under construction, one in the West Side and the other connected to the World of Disney store in Marketplace. Team Mickey is closed and is being transformed into The Marketplace Co Op, featuring many new mini shops. These include: Beautifully Disney, Cherry Tree Lane, D-Tech on Demand, The Trophy Room, Zoey and Pickles and Centerpiece. The new Marketplace Co Op is set to open sometime this spring. Construction has also started on a new bridge which will take guests from one side of the Marketplace to the other.



STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

CityWalk Offering New Tastes

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL CITYWALK

Universal recently announced new restaurants and more coming this year. Red Oven Pizza Bakery and Antojitos Authentic Mexican Food are now open. Later this year, guests can dine at Hot Dog Hall of Fame, The Cowfish, Vivo Italian Kitchen and Bread Box. Guests will also be able to get treats at Menchie's, Cold Stone Creamery and a new Starbucks. The Universal Studio Store is currently closed with a temporary tent taking its place. A brand-new redesigned store will open later this year.



STATUS: CLOSED/UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Parade and Camp Minnie Mickey Closed

LOCATION: DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM

Camp Minnie-Mickey has closed to make way for the new Avatar area, which broke ground in January. It was also announced that after more than 12 years, Mickey's Jammin' Jungle Parade will go through the streets for the last time this June. It's closing to make way for the expansion, which includes new nighttime entertainment as well. Once open, guests will not only be able to walk around Pandora, but also embark on a boat ride through the waters, and discover what it feels like to soar in the sky on a Banshee. The Avatar area is set to open in 2017.



STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Muggles Can Soon Visit Diagon Alley

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

Universal has finally revealed more details about the The Wizarding World of Harry Potter- Diagon Alley expansion. It will feature a London waterfront facade with the iconic brick wall archway leading into Diagon Alley. Once inside, guests will be able to experience many shops and eateries including: Ollivanders, Borgin and Burkes, Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes, Wisearce's Wizarding Equipment, Leaky Cauldron and Florean Fortescue's Ice Cream Parlour. The highlight of the area will be the new, multidimensional thrill ride, Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts, which will take guests on a journey through the Gringotts vaults. Guests will also be able to ride the Hogwarts Express train between King's Cross Station in Universal Studios to the Hogsmeade Station in Islands of Adventure. As part of the expansion, Zonko's Joke Shop in Hogsmeade will be closing to make room for an expansion of Honeyduke's. The Wizarding World of Harry Potter - Diagon Alley is set to open this summer.

STATUS: NOW ROCKIN'

Beetlejuice! Beetlejuice! Beetlejuice!

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA

After about a month of downtime, Beetlejuice's Graveyard Review has reopened with an update to the 20 plus year old show. This version takes out the Fearleaders and replaces them with a female Mummy (Cleopatra) and Phantom (Phantasia). The story revolves around a party where the Universal Monsters come together to perform a mash up of songs from the '80s, with a few modern hits thrown in.



STATUS: SLIDING

Get Ready for an Aqua Drag Race

LOCATION: WET 'N WILD

Yet another tallest and fastest of its kind is coming to Orlando this summer. This time in the form of a race slide. The Aqua Drag Racer will be six stories tall and propel guests through four lanes of head-to-head competition at 15 feet per-second. The new ride replaces the Bubba Tub ride.



STATUS: OPENING SOON

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, Down the Walls, They Go

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

Construction walls are starting to come down around the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train ride. The bridge outside of Belle's Village and the backside of the mountain are now visible. Trains are cycling around the tracks quite often and foliage has been added as well. Once open, guests will enter through an interactive queue, take a seat in a mine train car and ride through the mine "where a million diamonds shine" - with a few surprises along the way. Seven Dwarfs Mine Train is set to open any day now.



PHOTO BY HALEY COBB

STATUS: NOW OPEN

Smokin' New Dining Option

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN DISNEY
WEST SIDE

A new walk-up food option called The Smokehouse recently opened at House of Blues, along with a redesigned patio. The area features more outdoor seating, a new stage and new lighting and sound system. The Smokehouse sells BBQ pulled pork, chicken or brisket sandwiches, turkey legs, ribs and more.



STATUS: NOW OPEN/COMING SOON

Get up close with Shamu

LOCATION: SEAWORLD ORLANDO

In early January, Shamu Stadium closed for routine pool maintenance, set to reopen in April. Until then, guests can see the killer whales in a new experience, Shamu Up Close. Throughout the day, guests learn about training techniques and the relationships the trainers have with the whales.



STATUS: UNDER REFURBISHMENT

NEW FOOD, ENTRANCE AND SHOPS

LOCATION: THE FLORIDA MALL

Plans to expand the food and retail offerings have been announced including a redesign of the entrance. A new food pavilion will feature more than 15 eateries including several healthy fare options and new-to-market dining choices. The new entrance to the mall will accommodate better flow both into the mall and the food pavilion. The current food area will be used for new retail space including the highly-anticipated American Girl store, the first in Orlando. The expansion and redesign is set to be completed later this fall.



STATUS: NOW OPEN

Spicing Things Up

LOCATION: EPCOT

Spice Road Table is now open in the Morocco pavilion along the waterfront. The new restaurant serves small plates such as hummus, calamari, stuffed grape leaves, lamb sliders and more. There are also many new drinks and desserts at a walk-up area next to the restaurant. It's open for lunch and dinner daily. See our review on page 52.



STATUS: CLOSED/OPENING SOON

Fantasyland is Coming to the Streets

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

In January, guests and cast members bid farewell to the Celebrate A Dream Come True Parade. It ended to make room for a new parade, Disney's Festival of Fantasy Parade, which debuts in March. The new parade will bring the stories of New Fantasyland to Main Street, U.S.A., through new floats, costumes and an original soundtrack.



STATUS: ROLLING OUT SOON

No More Fastpass Machines

LOCATION: WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

Disney has stopped offering paper Fastpasses, forcing all guests to book Fastpass+ if they want to skip the lines. Guests with active MagicBands can book their Fastpass+ selections up to 60 days before their visit and guests without MagicBands can book their Fastpass+ selections the day of their visit using kiosks in the parks. See our story on page 32.



STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Brick-breaking for New Hotel

LOCATION: LEGOLAND FLORIDA

Legoland Florida's first hotel was recently announced and will feature 152 highly themed rooms and suites. The hotel will be built directly to the left of the park's entrance. It's expected to open in the middle of next year.



STATUS: NOW RISING

Look to the Skies

LOCATION: INTERNATIONAL DRIVE

Construction on the Orlando Eye complex is in full swing with the Orlando Eye Observation Wheel already rising to the skyline. The area will also feature a Sea Life aquarium and Madame Tussauds wax museum. Restaurants will include Red Robin, Outback Steakhouse, Cooper's Hawk Winery, Buffalo Wild Wings and many others.



STATUS: NOW DINING

Doc and Sofia Join Play n' Dine

LOCATION: DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

Two of Disney Junior's newest stars, Doc McStuffins and Sofia the First, have joined the cast of Disney Junior Play 'n Dine, marking Doc's Walt Disney World debut. Guests will get the chance to meet Doc and Sofia and dance along with them during new musical numbers featuring songs from their respective TV shows. The duo joins Handy Manny, Jake from "Jake and the Never Land Pirates" and the hosts for breakfasts and lunches at the buffet-style Hollywood & Vine restaurant.



STATUS: OPENING SOON

Falcon or Chicken?

LOCATION: BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA

The park is well underway in bringing a new land to life. Pantopia will feature a new ride, dining options, shopping, a renovated indoor theater and more. This new land is a redesign of the former Timbuktu. The centerpiece will be Falcon's Fury, North America's tallest freestanding drop tower at 335 feet. The newly renovated Pantopia Theater will feature a brand-new show entitled Opening Night Critters, a theatrical "tail" featuring both domestic and exotic animals. Pantopia, along with Falcon's Fury, is set to open this spring.



STATUS: RETIRED

Ziti Sisters Leave Italy

LOCATION: EPCOT

The Ziti Sisters, a comedy troop in the Italy pavilion had their last performance recently. The group of five women celebrated the culture of Italy through music, dance and humor. They show ran for the past several years and no replacement has been announced.



STATUS: MAKING MEMORIES

More Photo Options

LOCATION: WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

A new digital photo option has debuted, replacing the former PhotoPass+ service. With Memory Maker, guests can get unlimited digital downloads of their PhotoPass photos for 30 days after purchase. This includes photos from photographers all around the parks and resorts, at character meet and greets, certain dining locations and attractions. Guests can purchase Memory Maker both online or in the parks, but the price varies.



STATUS: NO LONGER ROLLING

'PUSH' NO MORE

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

The roaming, talking trash can known as Push has been surprising guests since 1995, most recently in Tomorrowland. But that long run came to an end as Disney's contract with the man behind Push ran out in February and was not renewed. Disney has no immediate plans for a similar performance.



PHOTO BY BANKS LEE

STATUS: NOW DANCING

Calling All Supers

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

Club 626 is officially retired and has been replaced by the #INCREDIBLESuperDanceParty. The new dance party features Mr. and Mrs. Incredible and Frozone as they celebrate saving the world once again. The dance party is located in the outdoor Rockett tower Plaza in Tomorrowland.



Photo Finds

Orlando is always filled with fun things to see and our photographers are there to capture it all.

Visit our Website for videos and a gallery of more photos.
AttractionsMagazine.com

Cirque du Soleil La Nouba celebrated their **15th year at Downtown Disney** in December with a special moment before the show. **Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse** joined some of the performers on stage for a short skit before the show began. Balloons fell at the end of the show and guests left with a limited edition print celebrating the anniversary.



Legoland Florida held **The Lego Movie Weekend** when the film was released in early February. Guests that weekend could meet **Emmet and Wyldstyle** on the red carpet, help create a Lego Movie mural made of Legos and take part in a scavenger hunt for the movie's Minifigures in Miniland. The movie characters will continue to meet guests at the park daily.



Walt Disney World wrapped-up their year-long **Limited Time Magic** promotion with a series of **special tours** in the parks. Lucky tour guests had to sign up and be chosen for the tours. Pictured here is a tour of Magic Kingdom before the park opened for the day by park **Vice President Phil Holmes**.



SeaWorld Orlando held their first ever **Wild Days Weekends** in January. Each weekend had a different theme; **Jack Hanna**, Sea Rescue and Penguin Lovers.



A Celebration of **Harry Potter** was held at Universal Orlando over three days in late January. The event was held much like a **convention** with panels featuring the **movies' stars and creators**, wand combat classes and an expo area with many **photo opportunities** and more.



This year's **Super Bowl MVP**, Seattle Seahawks linebacker Malcolm Smith, made good on his post game promise and **paraded through the Magic Kingdom** the next day. Although his visit was short, he did make time for a ride on Big Thunder Mountain.



Showing some hometown pride, Walt Disney World held a **parade for the University of Central Florida** in celebration of their win at the Fiesta Bowl. Featured in the parade were Coach George O'Leary, the coaching staff, the football team, the UCF Marching Knights, cheerleaders and Disney characters.



VERSUS

WE PUT ATTRACTIONS HEAD-TO-HEAD

By Banks Lee

AQUATICA VS. WET 'N WILD

THRILLS



AQUATICA

Both parks have a new ride opening in 2014 that promises record-breaking thrills, but Wet 'n Wild has a bigger selection of slides and thrills. But be aware that most of their slides require at least two guests.



WET 'N WILD

WINNER

FAMILY ATTRACTIONS



AQUATICA

WINNER



WET 'N WILD

Even though Wet 'n Wild claims to offer the largest family water play area in Florida, Aquatica has the distinction of actually housing several types of animal life in the park for families learn about.

PRICE



TIE

AQUATICA



TIE

WET 'N WILD

Both water parks offer the same single day prices when you either purchase online or at the park. They also offer special deals throughout the year, so check their respective websites for what's available.

LOCATION



WINNER

AQUATICA



WET 'N WILD

Both are located on International Drive. Aquatica is across from SeaWorld, while Wet 'n Wild is near Universal Orlando, on a section of road that regularly gets backed up with traffic.

LOCKERS



WINNER

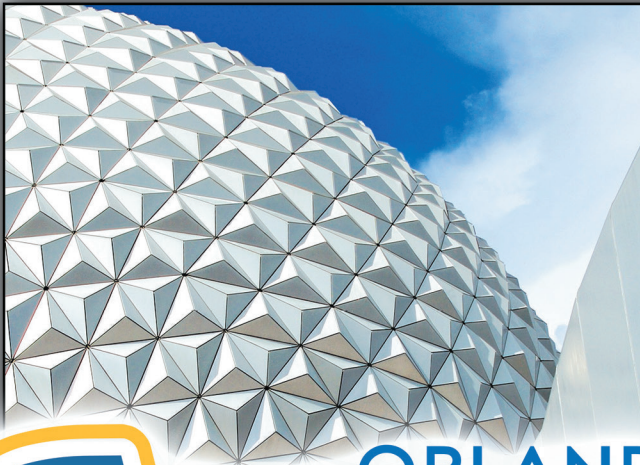
AQUATICA



WET 'N WILD

Wet 'n Wild's prices range from \$5.99 to \$10.99 and Aquatica from \$12 to \$15, but don't let the price fool you. You only get a \$3 deposit back at Wet 'n Wild, while Aquatica has a refundable \$10 deposit upon return of the locker key.

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Legoland Florida General Manager

Building A Theme Park, One Brick At A Time

General Manager Adrian Jones is the man behind the fast-paced progress at vacation central's newest theme park, Legoland Florida. Hailing from the United Kingdom, he has quickly adapted to the Sunshine State way of life, and has taken the sad remains of a once-glorious park and turned them into a 'bricktastic' success.

Tell us about your career with the Legoland company and how a Brit ended up in charge of Florida's newest theme park?

I started by serving ice cream at Alton Towers theme park in the U.K. in 1987 as a seasonal job before going to university. After graduating in 1993, I was fortunate enough to land a student placement job in the marketing department led by then-marketing director and now Merlin Entertainment CEO Nick Varney. This placement became permanent and, from 1993 to 2003, I progressed through various roles at Merlin parks Alton Towers, Thorpe Park and Chessington World of Adventures until I was asked to become general manager of Madame Tussauds in Las Vegas in 2004. At the time, I was the youngest GM in the Group and this was a huge step personally, being a high profile job, as

the company was only made up of 10 attractions worldwide. Merlin will open its 100th, a Sea Life attraction, in Charlotte in a few months' time. Whilst heading up this business, I was asked in 2008 to oversee the team responsible for building the first Legoland Discovery Centre in the U.S. in Chicago, and then in 2009 to oversee the opening of Madame Tussauds Hollywood in Los Angeles. In 2010, I was fortunate to land the position of divisional director for Legoland Florida and build the team here. This was the biggest Merlin project ever undertaken, and I am glad to say it has delivered on expectations and goes from strength to strength.

What did you know about the Orlando area before you got here? Had you visited as a tourist?

Ironically, my first experience of Orlando was a visit in 2008. It was weird finally going to a place I had studied so carefully and knew so much about, having been immersed in theme parks for so long. So I knew about all the various attractions, resorts and shopping way before I had actually experienced them, so it was quite a weird experience actually. It felt very familiar from day one.



Adrian Jones speaks to the media for the first time about Legoland Florida in 2010.

What did you think about the future Legoland site, which was the former Cypress Gardens, when you first saw it?

When I came down for an interview at Cypress Gardens in 2010, I was taken around the site and I fell in love with the park and its beauty, but was shocked at how run down it was. Having worked at Alton Towers for so long, I have a real affinity with beautiful theme parks and this park fit that mold; it just needed a



Adrian is joined on stage by Buddy at the grand opening of Legoland Florida on Oct. 15, 2011.

veneer of Lego to make it special! So I was chomping at the bit to get going to make it great again. We are extremely sensitive about preserving the gardens themselves as they have iconic status in the hearts and minds of locals and past visitors to the state, and add enormous brand equity to Legoland Florida.

How does Legoland Florida compare to other Legoland parks around the world?

The key difference between Legoland Florida and the other Legoland parks is the setting. I firmly believe that Legoland Florida is the most beautiful

theme park in the world and undoubtedly our future hotel will have the best location and views of any in the world, being situated on the shore of Lake Eloise.

You've obviously established the park really quickly and it has become a big hit with locals and tourists alike. What has been the key to putting Legoland so firmly on the Florida map?

Tough question. There are so many examples I could give, but I think the most important ingredient to our success, aside from my amazing team, is sticking closely to the principles behind the Lego brand and being focused on

delivering the best experience for families with younger children and not to be distracted from those principles in everything we have done. Having such an amazing brand as Lego behind you is great for creativity and, using it, we are able to transform rides, attractions, and now video game platforms, into a more creative, interactive experience. Throw in a child's imagination and a wide range of build opportunities and anything is possible. There is a phrase written on the idea house in Billund, Denmark, which sums this up: "The only toy that's always right – because you made it!"

What is your favorite part of the park?

My favorite part is currently the World of Chima and the Quest for Chi water ride. This attraction was created working very closely with Lego over a period of 18 months and has

become a signature part of the park. The child in me loves watching people soak each other on the water cannons. Such a basic aspect, but heightened by the dramatic and beautiful setting. Although my phone has been worse for the experience a couple of times!

How exciting was it to launch the World of Chima last year as a first-of-its-kind Lego attraction?

World of Chima was the first time an attraction was launched in the same year as the toy brand. Hence the collaboration with Lego was quite unique and has paved the way for a much broader appreciation of Merlin by Lego, and likewise Merlin of Lego. There is no greater thrill than watching guests experience an attraction, having worked on it so painstakingly for many months, and not fully appreciating how they will react or what they will do. I am glad to say that we did our homework well and the land has been a huge hit.

How important was it to incorporate the water park into Legoland Florida and give this park another unique feature?

The water park is extremely important to our future aspirations to be a resort destination. Having an integral water park has been very advantageous in not only adding more capacity during peak periods but more importantly adding more of a reason to stay for multiple days, buy an annual pass or simply stay and explore the local area. Our water park is ideal for small

children. Throw in the usual helping of large foam Lego bricks that float and you release a realm of opportunities. When we open our hotel, the water park will also be a vital component, driving length of stay as well.

It seems you never stand still at Legoland Florida. Tell us about the big Duplo Valley makeover and what else you are adding this year?

When we opened the park, we knew Lego was going to change the Duplo brand extensively in the coming years and we decided to open the area with this in mind. The World of Chima opening accelerated the need to develop the Duplo Valley since guests had to pass through this weaker area to get to the heavily themed Chima. We are very excited to be presenting a brand new Duplo Valley with a number of new attractions set in a farmyard environment, but I am most excited about the Duplo train, as I grew up playing with Lego train sets as my father is a steam engine fanatic.

What will the forthcoming new Legoland Hotel, opening in 2015, do for the park, and will it change how people see Legoland?

With the Legoland Hotel comes an overnight change in identity from a single day visit attraction to a resort destination. Legoland Hotels are a kid's paradise and every Lego fanatic's dream hotel. Aside from the heightened awareness and interest generated when a new Legoland Hotel is built, which is enormous, the real positive is the fact that it further enhances our



PHOTO BY LEGOLAND FLORIDA

Adrian stands next to the Lego version of Bok Tower in the Miniland section of the park.



Kjeld Kristiansen, grandson of Lego founder Ole Kirk Christiansen, passes a golden brick to Adrian, to place as the last brick to finish Legoland Florida during the grand opening ceremonies.

experience by allowing guests to wake up in the heart of Legoland, which in turn excites travel trade operators selling our product both domestically and Internationally. Couple this with the location of the hotel, positioned on the beautiful shore of Lake Eloise, and you have the perfect tonic for success.

What are your thoughts on “The Lego Movie” and how do you think its success will affect the park?

“The Lego Movie” has obviously been a huge hit and has already driven attendance at the parks here and in California. What really excites me about the movie is that I have heard multi-

ple comments about children watching it, going home and spontaneously playing with Lego that some have not played with in months. This is the real power behind the movie and will continue to grow the Lego and Legoland brands further.

We know you are a big fan of Stoke City soccer in the English Premier League, but do you follow any teams here in Florida?

Yes, Stoke City is my team and I follow Orlando City soccer whenever possible, which with my busy schedule, is difficult. My wife and I are great friends with Phil Rawlins, who is the president of Orlando City, and his

wonderful wife, Kay. Having all been born and bred in Stoke-on-Trent in England, it was one of those crazy scenarios where you meet somebody on the other side of the world, yet lived only a dozen or so miles away for years, and never knew one another growing up but had mutual friends! I think what Phil and his team have achieved is magnificent in such a small space of time and Major League Soccer will be great for the city of Orlando and they have achieved this the right way—by building a winning team, a robust business framework, and creating a hugely passionate and loyal fan base. Go City!

Photograph Opportunities at Walt Disney World

By "SKIPPER" BEN REBSTOCK

Want a cheap way to bring home great memories from your Walt Disney World vacation? Well then, take lots of pictures (if you can avoid all of those gift shops, that is). And with film no longer an anchor, there's no reason why you shouldn't take hundreds of pictures on your trip. Here are 10 great photo opportunities you don't want to miss.

10

Sword In the Stone Magic Kingdom

Who's never dreamed of becoming King Arthur by pulling the sword from the stone? The ceremony might have gone away, but you can still try to pull out the sword and claim the throne.

And luckily, those trying, often fail – which makes for some great (and funny) photos.

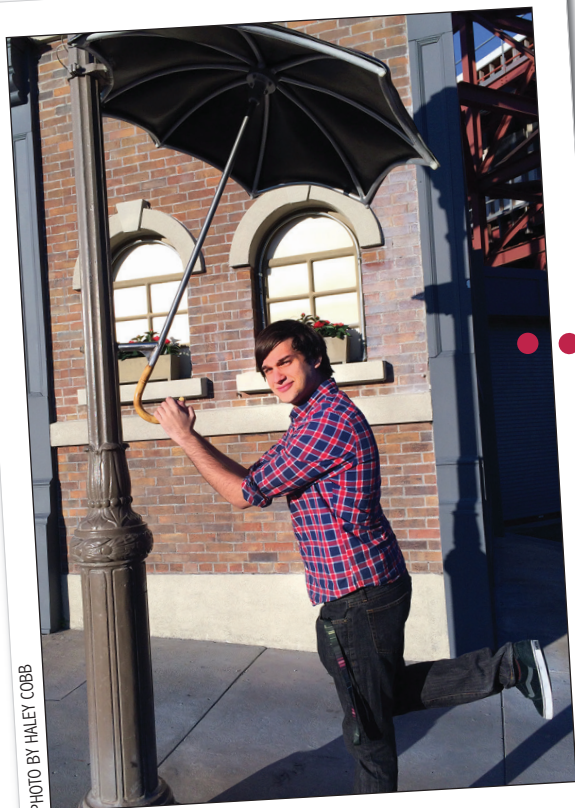


PHOTO BY HALEY COBB

"Singing In the Rain" Umbrella

9

Disney's Hollywood Studios

At the end of the "Streets of America" stands a light pole with an umbrella attached to it. Hold the umbrella and stand on the silver square on the ground underneath it. Soon, rain will be falling from the sky and you'll be Gene Kelly recreating a famous scene from the classic movie "Singing In the Rain." Only at Walt Disney World.

8 World Showcase Epcot

Ok, so we are talking about a lot of pictures here, but there's nothing more fun then pretending you are taking a trip around the world ... while only walking about a mile. Visit all of the countries and have your camera ready. Take a picture wearing sombreros in Mexico, rubbing a troll's nose for good luck in Norway, sipping wine in front of the Eiffel Tower in France and chugging out of a stein in Germany.



Roy O. Disney Statue Magic Kingdom

Sure, Walt Disney World was Walt's dream, but without his brother, Roy O. Disney, that dream might never have become a reality. Roy took over the lead on the Florida Project after Walt's passing, and the company honored the elder Disney brother when they constructed a statue at the center of Main Street. You can sit next to Minnie Mouse on a park bench and take your own picture with a Disney legend.

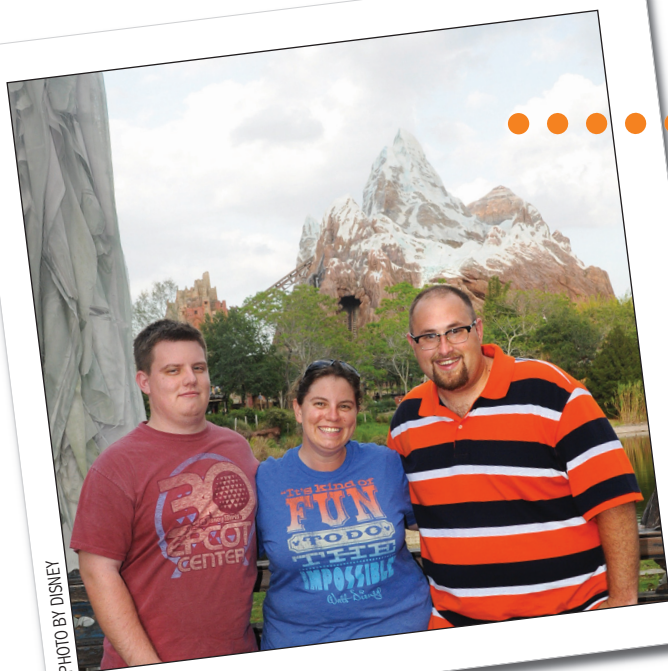


PHOTO BY DISNEY

6 Expedition Everest Disney's Animal Kingdom

One of the most impressive sites ever constructed by Walt Disney Imagineering is the 199-foot tall Forbidden Mountain that houses Expedition Everest. It is simply a breathtaking work of art. And while it is large enough to be seen all throughout the park, the best place to get your picture taken in front of it is at the walkway leading to the mountain from the entrance of Asia. A Disney Photopass cast member is usually there, ready and willing to take your picture.



Spaceship Earth

Epcot

Nearly as iconic as Cinderella Castle is the 18-story geodesic sphere named Spaceship Earth. The centerpiece of Epcot is a thing of beauty, and engineering marvel. It is also a must-take photo opportunity. But, let me give you this piece of advice. Don't take your picture at the park entrance. Instead, walk to the pathway that leads to World Showcase and take your picture on the other side of the Fountain of Nations. When you get home and you see the hideous "Leave a Legacy" structures are not in your picture, you'll thank me.

5

4

Eating a Unique Treat Walt Disney World

Walt Disney World is known for their great rides and attractions — we all know that. But they are also known for some amazing treats. Capture the bliss on your face as you bite into a Mickey's Ice Cream bar, take photographic evidence that the turkey leg you enjoyed in Frontierland was in fact as large as your head. Or, do like me, and make everyone on Facebook and Twitter jealous that you are enjoying a delicious Dole Whip float.



3

The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror Disney's Hollywood Studios

Now, I'm not an advocate for spending lots of money at every attraction for over-priced ride photos, but I do believe that the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror is the exception to this rule. Sure, it's funny to laugh at the over-reactions of people who know when the picture is taken ... but it is even funnier to laugh at the people who are in sheer terror when those elevator doors open. Whichever group you fall under, this is a picture worth taking home.



PHOTO BY DISNEY

Mickey Mouse

Walt Disney World

If you are traveling with children, this picture is a no-brainer. But even if this is an "adults-only" trip, you still have to get your picture with the person (or in this case, rodent) who is responsible for everything you see. Luckily, there are great photo opportunities in each park, as well as during select character breakfasts, to have your picture taken with Mickey. While his spot on Main Street might be his most popular location, might I suggest seeing Mickey in his Sorcerer's Apprentice attire at the Disney's Hollywood Studios.



1

Cinderella Castle

Magic Kingdom

There's a fact floating around the Internet (so it must be true) that Cinderella Castle is the most photographed structure in the world. I can't prove it myself, but I can guarantee you will be kicking yourself if you do not take a picture of you and your group in front of this American icon. It's the picture you will share with everyone, just to show them just how great of a time you had on your trip.



Skipper Ben is a former Walt Disney World cast member.

He worked at Jungle Cruise, Muppet*Vision 3D and as a producer for Radio Disney. He now resides in Dallas, Texas, with his wife Lisa (also a former cast member) and daughters Abigail Lily and Alayna Iris.

Do you agree with Ben or have a suggestion for a future Top 10?

Let us know at info@attractionsmagazine.com

MyMagic+ Revolutionizes the Disney World Experience

Everything you need to know about MagicBands and FastPass+

By Kimberly Button



Guests check and make their FastPass+ reservations in this new area in Innventions at Epcot.

The way that guests experience the Walt Disney World Resort has changed forever. A new system called MyMagic+ will create extremely personalized encounters in Disney's theme parks, as well as simplifying planning and reservations using cutting edge technology. While MyMagic+ was being tested as early as January 2013, the program is gaining more momentum as new aspects are now available to more guests.

Technically, MyMagic+ is still in a testing phase at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida. As of now, no other Disney parks have started testing the program. Not all Disney guests have access to all features of MyMagic+. Specifics of how the experience will work once completely rolled out to all guests are still being tested and adjusted, with no official word from Disney on the rules of the system. Options that are available during one visit might not be the same on a subsequent trip.

Yet that hasn't stopped the Walt Disney Company from launching a new television marketing campaign touting the MyMagic+ experience. The television ads, which debuted in mid-February, mark the first time the program has been widely marketed by the company. The ads encourage guests to book a hotel room at Walt Disney World Resort hotels to gain the benefits of FastPass+ available "during our test."

Got questions? You're not alone. Millions of Disney enthusiasts want to know how the program works and when they can utilize all of the benefits of MyMagic+. The following is an overview of the varied components that comprise the MyMagic+ experience, followed by a Q&A of the most frequently asked questions.



Some of the new MagicBand accessories for sale at Walt Disney World include these Cheshire Cat and Mike Wazowski Sliders and Star Wars Bandits.

What is MyMagic+ ?

FastPass+ is one part of the MyMagic+ experience. Since 1999, Fastpass has allowed guests to reserve a time frame to come back to some of the most popular attractions at the four Disney World theme parks and enjoy little or no wait time. It used to be that you had to get a paper Fastpass ticket at individual attractions and only one Fastpass ticket was available during a timeframe. In January 2014, that all changed as the old-fashioned paper ticket system was removed from all four theme parks.

With the new FastPass+ service, guests can select a certain number of attractions and experiences all at once. Choices can be changed throughout the day according to availability, and now include reserving fireworks and parade viewing areas, shows, Disney character greetings and most rides, more than doubling the amount of options as before. Guests with MagicBands can book their FastPass+ up to 60 days in advance. Those without must book them the day of their visit.

MagicBands are a big part of the MyMagic+ experience. The MagicBand is a device worn on the wrist, like a bracelet, utilizing radio frequency (RF). For guests with a MagicBand, all aspects of their Disney vacation can be accessed by tapping the band at RF readers.

Instead of a Key to the World card, now the MagicBand will unlock your Disney Resort hotel room, allow you to enter

Disney World theme parks and water parks, grant access to FastPass+ attractions, be used to pay at shops and restaurants, and be linked to Disney PhotoPass. The MagicBand can also be used to check in with Disney's Magical Express.

While the MagicBand can simplify the amount of items and paperwork that you would normally need to carry, the most exciting aspect of the MagicBand could be the personalization that will happen throughout the parks. Thomas Staggs, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, hinted at the unique personal touches awaiting guests during an interview at the 2013 D: All Things Digital conference.

"This [MagicBand] allows us to unlock more special things for you depending how and at what level you want to participate," Staggs said.

If you opt in to allow personal information to be shared, Mickey Mouse might call you by name during a character greeting or a doll might pop up in the middle of the It's a Small World ride that is similar to one you designed online at home, according to Staggs.

What about security of your personal information? "All that's on this [MagicBand] is a random code associated with an encrypted record that we hold safe," Staggs said.

Concern about having personal data stolen is not the only fear many Disney guests have. There is also the uneasiness of your movements being monitored and

watched as you are in the park wearing a MagicBand. Staggs said, "it doesn't track people, per se. It's not GPS. This has a long range read, it is Bluetooth enabled, there are readers in certain places throughout the park so we will by virtue of seeing how many people are passing a place, have a sense of crowd flow and truth be told, we would know that particular band passed that point, but then it's not continuously tracked."

A third piece of the entire MyMagic+ experience is My Disney Experience. Available either online at MyDisneyExperience.com or through the free My Disney Experience mobile app, this planning tool allows you to customize your Disney visit before leaving home, including FastPass+ reservations.

While in the theme parks, the mobile app keeps track of all of your reservations, tickets and FastPass+ selections, allowing you to change them as needed during the day. My Disney Experience also provides show times, attraction wait times, GPS-enabled maps, information on special events taking place near your location, and character greeting locations.

Disney is currently receiving and listening to feedback from guests and cast members alike during the testing phase. Don't like an aspect of the MyMagic+ experience? Here's your chance to speak up. A new version of My Disney Experience rolled out in early February based on customer feedback with the app.



Guests without MagicBands line up at Epcot to make their FastPass+ reservations. If you see a long line like this one, look for other FastPass+ locations in the park to make your reservations.

Q&A



MagicBands come in seven different colors. If you don't choose, you will get the grey one. The pink, yellow and green ones pictured here have had their outer trim removed to make them smaller.

MagicBand

Q *Who can get a MagicBand?*

A Currently, only guests staying at Walt Disney World Resort hotels will be guaranteed to receive a MagicBand. If you book your Disney resort reservation more than 10 days ahead of time, your customized MagicBands (by color and name) will be sent to your home. Otherwise, you will receive them when you check in at the resort.

Q *Will Annual Passholders be able to get a MagicBand?*

A Yes, when the program is fully rolled out to include Annual Passholders. In February, select Annual Passholders started receiving invitations to get their MagicBands. The MagicBand comes with an exclusive Passholder MagicSlider to customize the band, as well as a card used for free parking and discounts. There is no charge for the MagicBand. The roll out for all Annual Passholders is expected to occur in the next few months. It is still unclear whether all of the MagicBands will be delivered by mail or must be picked up in the theme parks.

Q *Will day guests who are not staying at a Disney resort be able to get a MagicBand?*

A Yes, but not yet. Once this option is available, guests who purchase theme park tickets without staying at a Disney Resort will have the option of purchasing a MagicBand. The cost is expected to be less than \$15.

Q *Do I need to share my personal information to have a MagicBand?*

A No. You can choose to opt-in to share personal information, such as your name and birthday, in order to access special features throughout the theme parks and on attractions. If you choose not to opt in, you will still be able to use features such as FastPass+ but without additional personalized experiences.

Q *Can I charge purchases on my MagicBand? Do I have to?*

A It is up to you whether or not you want to allow charging privileges on each MagicBand.

Q *What happens if I lose my MagicBand?*

A If you lose your MagicBand, report it immediately to Guest Relations or log onto the My Disney Experience app and disable the band.

Q *If I am staying at a Disney Resort, do I have to use a MagicBand? Can I opt for a plastic card, instead?*

A As of now, all Disney Resort guests must use a MagicBand, with just a few exceptions reported of Disney resort guests being able to ask for a Key to the World card instead.

Q *Are the MagicBands waterproof?*

A Yes, the MagicBands can be worn in the pool, on water rides, in the ocean and out in the rain.



Until they are removed or repurposed, the old Fastpass machines are covered up and not being used.

Q&A



Look for these signs in the Disney parks to point you to a FastPass+ kiosk to make or check your reservations.

Q *Do I have to choose a size for the MagicBand?*

A All MagicBands come in one size that is estimated to fit the wrists of 95 percent of guests. The MagicBand is sized for an adult, but the outer part of the band can be removed to create a smaller band that will fit a child's wrist.

Q *Can I personalize my MagicBand?*

A On the Disney website, you can choose from a choice of colors. If no color is chosen, you will receive a grey band. You can also choose the name to be printed on the inside of the MagicBand. Accessories are available to further customize each band, including covers, sliders and buttons. The accessories are an additional purchase.

FastPass+

Q *How can I use FastPass+ to schedule my choices each day?*

A FastPass+ is currently available to all Disney World guests, but where and when you can utilize the system depends on whether or not you have a MagicBand.

Guests with a MagicBand can start scheduling FastPass+ selections up to 60 days before their visit using the My Disney Experience website or mobile app. Once inside the parks, guests with MagicBands can modify their selections using either the FastPass+ kiosks or special iPads loaded with My Disney Experience.

Disney guests without a MagicBand can use FastPass+ as well, but must wait until they are inside the park to make their selections using their ticket card. FastPass+ can be scheduled at any of the multiple kiosks inside each theme park, as well as with cast members carrying iPads that can help you choose selections.

Q *How many attractions or experiences can I reserve with FastPass+ each day?*

A Only three. If you only want to schedule one FastPass+ reservation, two other options will be added to your schedule for you in order to have a total of three choices.

Q *Do I have to use FastPass+ at a set time, or do I have a window of time like the old Fastpass system?*

A For attractions, you will be given a hour-long window of time. For parades and shows, your time period will be shorter.

Q *How does a FastPass+ queue line work?*

A To enter a FastPass+ queue, you must tap your MagicBand or ticket card on the RF reader at the entry to the queue. If the Mickey head lights up green, you will be allowed to enter. You'll then tap another station closer to the front of the line. A cast member is still stationed at the entrance to FastPass+ queues.

Q *Can I choose any variety of the options for FastPass+ each day?*

A Maybe. At Epcot and Disney's Hollywood Studios, a tiered system is being tested which allows only one choice from a group of popular attractions, and two choices from another group. For example, at Epcot, guests can only make one choice from a group of the park's most popular attractions, such as Test Track, Maelstrom, Illuminations, Soarin' and Character Spot.

Q *What if I'm park hopping? Can I choose attractions from different parks?*

A No. As of now, only three choices are offered per day and only in one park. You cannot choose one attraction at Disney's Hollywood Studios and two at Disney's Animal Kingdom.

If you have any of the old Fastpass tickets at home, hold on to them as souvenirs. You can't get them at the parks anymore.





Many of Disney World's gift shops, including those in the resorts, are selling a wide variety of MagicBand accessories. They aren't needed, but they help you make your MagicBand unique.

Q&A



PHOTO BY JOEY GREEN

This is the exclusive MagicBand Slider that annual passholders have been receiving with their MagicBands.

Q How long will the lines be at FastPass+ kiosks?

A There have been reports of waiting in long lines to make your FastPass+ picks at the kiosks. However, the lines do move quickly. If you see a long line, go to another FastPass+ kiosk location. Cast members are often walking around with iPads, as well, for FastPass+ scheduling.

Q How do I know where the FastPass+ kiosks are?

A Paper guides to the FastPass+ experience, including kiosk locations, are being handed out at parking turnstiles and inside the theme parks.

Q Do all members of our party need to schedule the same FastPass+ choices?

A No, each person can choose options of their own, or one person may select for the whole family.

Q How can I keep track of my FastPass+ times?

A Times can be viewed on the My Disney Experience app. Cast members are also suggesting that guests take a picture of the screen confirming their reservations or write the times down. There is also an option of having the schedule e-mailed to you.



PHOTO BY DISNEY

A young guest puts the Mickey symbol on her MagicBand against the large Mickey symbol on the FastPass+ pole to enter the FastPass+ queue for Dumbo The Flying Elephant at Magic Kingdom.

DISNEY DETAILS

Don't Hurry Down

MAIN STREET U.S.A.

or you'll miss these cool details.

By Jim Korkis

As Disney guests eagerly rush down Main Street U.S.A. to get to Space Mountain, Splash Mountain and Big Thunder Mountain, they miss the many treasures hidden in plain sight on this quaint and intimate section of the Magic Kingdom.

Rather than trying to capture the feel of a small town in the Midwest like at Disneyland, Main Street U.S.A. at the Magic Kingdom represents a larger, more prosperous turn-of-the-century East Coast town. For instance, the Main Street Train Station's design resembles a similar upscale train station that existed in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. in this time period.

To create the illusion of a different time period, Disney utilized actual antiques (or remarkably detailed reproductions). Here are a handful of often overlooked treasures to check out on your next visit to Main Street U.S.A.



The Confectionary: The Columbian Exposition Poster

The painted portrait of explorer Christopher Columbus on a framed poster hangs prominently on a wall near the homemade candy and fudge. It is actually a poster for the Columbian Exposition of 1893, better known as the Chicago World's Fair.

The back story of the candy store is that the proprietor visited that event and was overwhelmed by the gadgetry of the Machinery Hall pavilion and incorporated some of those contraptions into his shop.

In actuality, the Imagineers chose this reference because Walt Disney's father, Elias, was a carpenter who helped build structures at that World's Fair, receiving a dollar a day for his efforts.



Town Square: The Hitching Posts

The hitching posts on Main Street U.S.A. have never been used to actually tie off a horse in the more than four decades they have been in place.

Emile Kuri was an art director on many films including "Topper", "Spellbound" and "It's a Wonderful Life". In 1952, he joined the Disney Studio where he remained for 23 years. During that time, he won an Oscar for his work on "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea".

Kuri had earlier earned another Oscar for his work on the 1949 film, "The Heiress". Part of the filming for that movie was done at an authentic 1840s mansion and the owner was especially pleased with the care Kuri had taken of the house during filming. In appreciation, he gifted Kuri with an original antique hitching post from the property. For many years, it resided proudly in the front yard of Kuri's house in Corona del Mar, Calif.

Five years later, when Kuri was assisting with the design of Disneyland's Main Street, he used that hitching post to create a mold for Disneyland's hitching posts. That same mold was re-used nearly 15 years later for the hitching posts on Disney World's Main Street. The paint on each hitching post is scraped off the foundation before being repainted so that none of the detailing is lost by simply layering on another coat of paint.





The Chapeau: Hat Box Sign

One Christmas, Walt Disney gave his wife Lillian a hatbox for Christmas. She wasn't too happy with the gift until she opened it and discovered a puppy instead of a hat.

Walt recounted the story to his employees at the Disney Studio and when the animated feature "Lady and the Tramp" was being developed, the artists decided to recreate that same moment by having the Jim Dear character present a hat box to his wife at Christmas that contained the baby dog, Lady.

Just outside the The Chapeau hat shop on Town Square and near Tony's Restaurant (also from Lady and the Tramp), high on a post is a sign featuring that same pink hat box with the words "The Chapeau".

Main Street: Cigar Store Indian

Early store owners used visual emblems to identify their shop for a populace with limited literacy. For example, barber poles or three gold balls representing pawn shops. Because of their association with introducing tobacco to Europeans, carved wooden figures of Native Americans became the icon for European tobacconists as early as the 17th century.

They reached their peak in America between 1850 and 1890 and were formally called Tobacco Store Indians. Later when holding a tomahawk in the hand was replaced with a handful of cigars, the term Cigar Store Indian became common. The facial features and costuming rarely resembled a member of any particular tribe of Native Americans.

The Main Street figure is not made of carved wood, but fiberglass and is based on a similar one at Disneyland. Originally, the figure stood across the street where a Tobacconist Shop stood until 1985.

The figure was moved to the other side of the street when the Tobacconist Shop location changed in 1989 to Main Street Stationers and later Main Street Book Store. The Market House sold tobacco products like cigarettes for years after the change, but when it stopped, the cigars were removed from the figure's hand.

A clone of the figure stands on the street in Frontierland in front of Prairie Outpost & Supply where tobacco products also used to be sold.



The Chapeau: The Phone

On the inside wall by the doorway of The Chapeau is one of two antique phones that were originally located at the Market House shop on Main Street U.S.A. before it was transformed into a different merchandise area.

At the turn of the century, when telephones were still new to the American way of life, it was not unusual for four or five households to share a common telephone line, or "party line". Eavesdropping soon became a favorite pastime.

The same 3:38 minute conversation between a mother and her young daughter that delighted guests when it was at the Market House continues today. They discuss the outrageous prices of items: Steak is 11¢ a pound; ham is 9¢ a pound; \$3 for a hundred cigars; \$7.80 for an expensive suit of clothes.

The exterior of a turn of a century phone still exists in Main Street's Harmony Barbershop as well, except it's been gutted.



Town Square: Harmony Barber Shop

The Harmony Barber Shop receives its name from the fact it was the home of the singing-in-harmony barbershop quartet known as the Dapper Dans. Even today a drawing of the original four Walt Disney World Dapper Dans hangs framed on the wall. The first Dans were Dick Kneeland (lead), Bub Thomas (bass), Jerry Siggins (baritone) and Bob Mathis (tenor).

The Original Harmony Barber Shop was located near the end of West Center Street from 1971 to 2001. With the expansion of the Emporium into Center Street, the shop was relocated to an area between the Car Barn and the Emporium on Town Square.

Until the end of 2012, the shop featured three authentic old-style barber chairs purchased from a Chicago barbershop that have now been replaced with more modern chairs.

The interior of the shop, covered in pinstriped wallpaper and dark carved wood cabinetry, contains many authentic artifacts. At one time, there was a working cash register from 1912 but it did not allow guests to use credit cards and was replaced with a modern register.

However, still remaining in the interior of the shop is an authentic potbelly stove as well as an over 100 year old mirrored brass hat and coat rack from a passenger train. The mirror was to assist passengers in adjusting their hat and hair.





Main Street: The Owner of the Emporium

The word Emporium comes from the Greek word meaning "merchant". During the Victorian era, it became a popular term to describe a large retail store that sold a wide variety of commodities and goods.

It is the largest gift shop in the Magic Kingdom with nearly 17,000 square feet of space covering an entire city block. With the latest extension of the Emporium Gallery on Center Street, it is even larger today.

At the bottom of the glass windows at the main entrance to the Magic Kingdom Emporium is the information that the proprietor of the establishment is "Osh Popham".

In the Disney live action film "Summer Magic", Osium "Osh" Popham (portrayed by singer-actor Burl Ives) was the shopkeeper, constable, carpenter, postmaster and good-natured storyteller of the small town of Beulah, Maine at the turn of the century.



Main Street Train Station: The Orchestrion

When the Penny Arcade on Main Street closed in 1995, several of the antique machines were moved to the upper level of the train station.

Albert Clifford Raney had a large collection of mechanical music machines. Raney passed away in 1949. In 1953, Walt Disney bought 30 prized examples from his widow who stated at the time, she felt Walt would give them a good home where they would be appreciated by others.

Several items from Raney's collection that were utilized at Disneyland's Main Street arcade were "loaned" to Walt Disney World when it opened including the J.P. Seeburg - Seeburg KT Orchestrion (PianOrchestra) that was built in 1927. Its instruments include: Piano, Mandolin, Triangle, Xylophone and Castanets. The music is created by means of perforated paper rolls and the sound is produced by pipes.

Bob Moore, who was brought into Disney Company in 1990 to take care of the musical machines, said in 2003, "Bill Sullivan, who was the vice president of the Magic Kingdom, was the person chiefly responsible for the PianOrchestra coming to Florida from California. He loved to listen to it, and so a push button was mounted on the back of the instrument, so that it could be started at any time just for him."

Walt Disney World sold most of its antique collection in 1997, including many beloved mutoscopes.



Casey's Corner: The Imagineering Team Photo

Casey's Corner on Main Street was remodeled in 1995 to resemble a similar location in Disneyland Paris that debuted in 1992. Originally, it was the Coca-Cola Refreshment Corner.

The name "Casey's" refers to the 1888 poem "Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Thayer. Look for the 1888 reference on the outdoor marquee. The story of Casey and his Mudville Nine baseball team was transferred to animation by the Disney artists in the "Casey at the Bat" sequence of Disney's animated compilation feature "Make Mine Music".

Many of the props on display in this food and beverage location are authentic antiques, including jugs of Coca-Cola syrup and baseball team mugs and pennants from around the turn of the 20th century.

In the inside seating area are reproductions of actual photos from the time period. However, one is a photo that depicts the Imagineering Team who worked on both the Casey's Corner rehab and the Main Street Athletic Company from 1995.

Notice the team is wearing jerseys from a number of different teams and there are women in mustaches, so Disney guests who give the picture a casual glance assume it's just another turn of the century baseball team photo.



Believe it or not, there are even more hidden treasures awaiting patient and curious guests on Main Street U.S.A., from a handmade Thomas Edison light bulb, to a beautiful painting used in the original version of the Hall of Presidents attraction, to actual cavalry lanterns in the Car Barn. However, because most guests don't notice these details, many other hidden treasures have disappeared in recent years. So be careful not to miss the ones that still exist while you can.



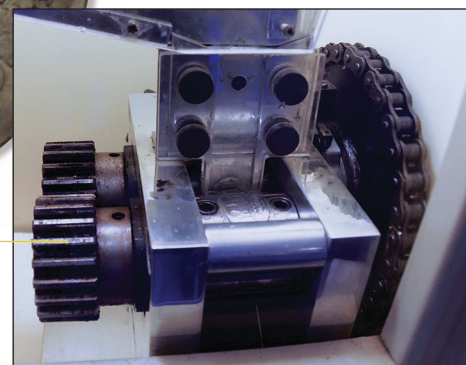
PRESSED PENNIES Delight Visitors and Collectors

By Barb Nefer



When you visit Central Florida's theme parks and attractions, you probably cringe at the souvenir price tags. Sure, you've got to have that Orange Bird T-shirt, that stuffed Shamu or a wand direct from the Wizarding World, but it puts a dent in your budget.

Thankfully, there's still a simple souvenir that starts at fifty-one cents and is packed with collectible potential. Yes, that's right, it's under one dollar, and it's a perfect personalized memento of the place you visited. It's known as the elongated coin or, more commonly, the pressed penny.



The inside of a coin pressing machine. Above and to the left are various pennies, a dime and a quarter after they've been pressed in machines at Walt Disney World. As you can see, the shininess of the coin can make a big difference after it's pressed.

Wide Reach

Elongated coin machines can be found at all the major Central Florida theme parks and attractions, as well as attractions across the country. You can even get them in places like the Red Dog Saloon in Anchorage, Alaska, and the Dole Pineapple Plantation in Hawaii. Pennies are commonly used in the United States, but there are also quarter and dime pressing machines.

Their popularity is no surprise, according to Oded Paz, immediate past president of The Elongated Collectors (TEC), a group for pressed coin collectors that dates back to 1966. He cites several reasons for their universal appeal.

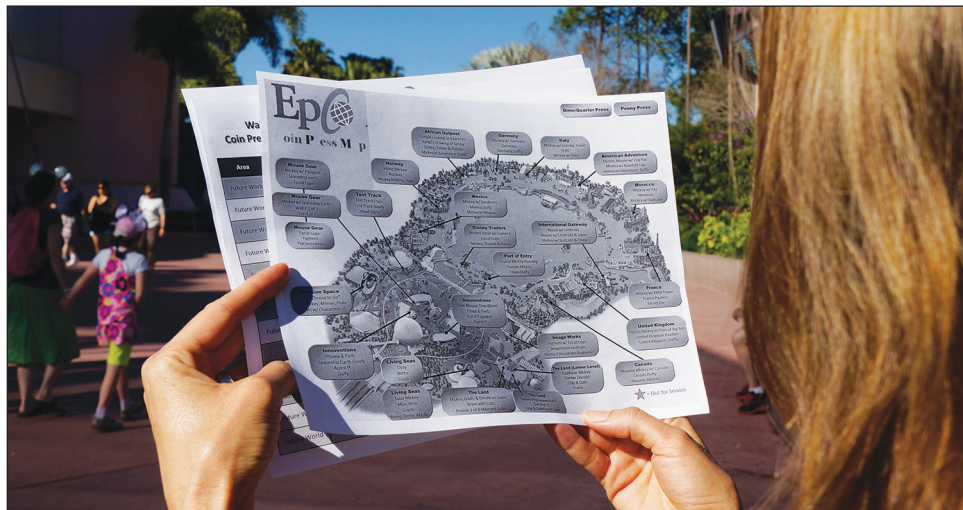
"They are great fun to collect," he said. "Each one has a unique design on it. If you appreciate art, design and visual wonders, you will marvel at how lovely these designs are and how much detail can fit on such a small surface."

Paz said the do-it-yourself aspect is a big draw, too. "The kids, and many adults, love cranking the hand-operated machines, and seeing the machine in operation is quite interesting, as well. Seeing your pocket change turn into something so different and beautiful, and the satisfaction in saying 'I did this,' is very gratifying."

Of course, their cost plays a big role. Paz points out, "They are, most probably the lowest-cost souvenirs you can find."

Popular With Theme Parks

Pressed pennies are an attractive merchandising option for both major theme parks and smaller attractions for several reasons. Erik Hendrickson, director of



Elongated coin collectors have an advantage at Walt Disney World. You can get a map of the coin machine locations at each park's Guest Relations desk.

retail for Legoland Florida, said the park decided to offer pressed coin machines because "penny press machines have been around for a long time. They provide a fun and inexpensive way for guests to create a collection from places all over the world they have visited."

Another attractive feature is that coin designs are relatively easy to create and add to the machines. The most difficult part is deciding what design to offer. "At Legoland Florida, we look for iconic images of the park," Hendrickson explained. "Then we turn them into a black and white image that can be reproduced in the pressed machines. You will find a variety of different icons throughout the park."

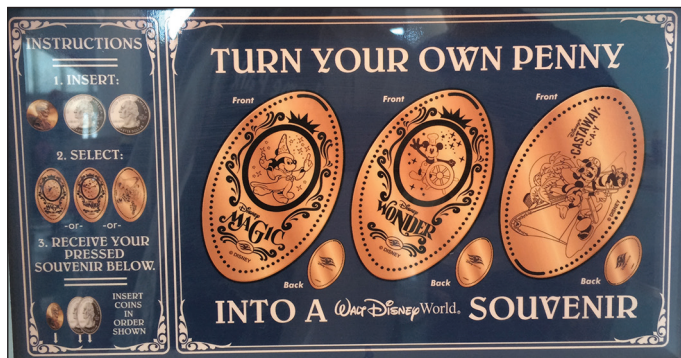
Those designs can be easily swapped out when a park or attraction is holding a special promotion, celebrating an anniversary or doing anything else for which it would like to offer a limited edition. They can also be rotated to keep them fresh so collectors, locals and families who return annually can get something different on every visit.

For example, for

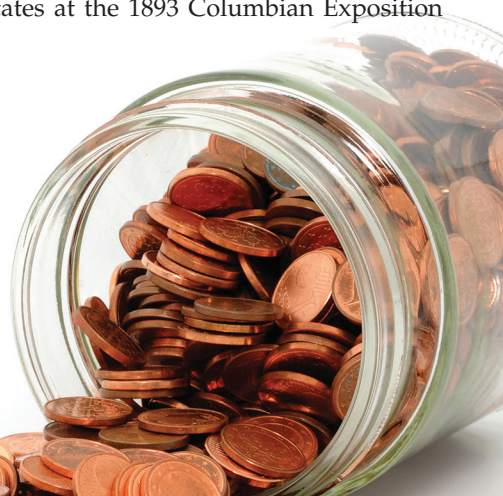
Legoland Florida, Hendrickson said, "We roll them out in different series so guests that come back for future visits have new pennies to collect. A series will last anywhere from two to four years, depending on its popularity. As a new park only open since 2011, we are currently on series two."

A Long History

Elongated coins actually date back to the late 1800s, according to Ray Dillard, a TEC member and widely acknowledged authority on the history of older elongated coins. "There is some sketchy evidence that they may have originated in Europe," he said. "However, there is no doubt that they began here in the United States at the 1893 Columbian Exposition



Disney Cruise Line pressed pennies are prized by collectors because they're only available at the cruise terminal and they make imprints on both sides of the coin.





Many elongated coin machines are themed with as much detail as the coins themselves. From left are machines located at Jungle Cruise, Animal Kingdom, Arabian Nights (now rare because it is closed), and Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin.

in Chicago. At that time, the designs were very simple, with the word 'Columbian' curved across the top, '1893' in the center, and the word 'Exposition' curved across the bottom."



You can put your coins in your own scrapbook or buy decorative albums at most theme parks, like this one at Universal Orlando.

Just as they are today, Dillard said, "They proved to be a very popular cheap souvenir. They were rolled on various denominations from customers' pocket change, but mostly on Indian head cents and V-nickels, which of course were in circulation at that time."

Things picked up in 1901 when, as Dillard explained, "Charles Damm, a jeweler in Buffalo, N.Y., added flair to the process. He produced a number of sculptured dies representing various attractions at the Pan American Exposition held in his hometown. This was so successful that it was repeated for the Saint Louis Worlds Fair in 1904.

"He also made many dies to commemorate fraternities, hometown anniversaries, celebrations and special events. He made dies for the Armour Meat Packing Company, thereby originating advertising on elongated coins. Charles Damm is considered to be the Father of Elongated Coins. Artwork on his dies is unmatched since his time."

The Modern Era

The modern era began in the 1980s, when a man named Vance Fowler managed to get some machines in at many West Coast attractions, from Oregon to California. According to Dillard, he stuck to that territory and didn't expand any further.

However, TEC got permission to have a machine at the club's booth at the ANA Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1988. That led to a visit by a man named Randy Vaughn, who felt his father-in-law could make machines. He managed to get Kings Island theme park to install pressed coin makers in 1990, and their popularity exploded. Soon they were cropping up in other theme parks and attractions.

Dillard said, "Today they are in most theme parks and tourist attractions across the country, plus many foreign countries. They are even at truck stops on interstate highways and turnpikes. They are everywhere!"

If you're worried about mutilating money by using one of the popular machines, there's no cause for concern. Pressing coins is legal as long as it's not done with fraudulent intent. United States law allows you to make and keep elongated coins for legitimate numismatic (coin collecting) purposes.

Another Disney Collectible

It's not surprising that Disney is a major player in elongated coins, since it's well known for such collecting crazes as pins and Vinylmation figures. Disney elongated coin expert Robert Hoff, who runs the Park Pennies website, said they date back to 1987, when they were first introduced at Disneyland in California.

"Disneyland made some of the nicest



Many elongated coin machines are so eye-catching that you won't have any trouble spotting them in the parks, even without a map. From left are machines located at the Cars meet at Disney's Hollywood Studios, NASCAR Sports Grille at Universal CityWalk, Revenge of the Mummy Ride and The Simpsons area.

machine vended elongated coins available, thanks to the very talented engraver at Eurolink Design, Jimmy Vargas," Hoff explained. "The high quality, hand engraved, three dimensional quality of the pressed pennies, combined with the Disney artwork, set them apart and made them very collectable."

Like many other Disney items, some of the coins are highly prized by collectors. This is driven by their scarcity because they were only available for a limited time or were available in a hard-to-access spot. For example, Hoff said that "dated coins are often of the greatest interest. A few different sets of dated pressed quarters were offered by WDW from the 1990s to the early 2000s. They were prized at the time and are very much sought after today.

"The early WDW pressed quarter sets were available for between one and two years. A few dies in those sets failed or were otherwise replaced early on, making for variations that are prized by Disney elongated coin collectors.

"Recently, Disney placed a six play double penny press machine at the Disney Cruise Line terminal behind the passenger gates. They could be some of the most desirable pressed pennies currently onstage. They are the only Disney elongated coins in Florida featuring backstamps (stamped on both sides) and are also hard to get. Another coin that is currently available at WDW and prized

by pressed penny collectors is the certain Agent P coin offered only via the World Showcase Adventure."

Bitten by the Collection Bug

The passion for collecting the coins is sparked by many things, and sometimes it's as simple as a child's interest. Paz got the bug when his daughter purchased a bag of pressed coins at a local coin club meeting. The family lived in California at the time and found machines at Universal Studios Hollywood, where they created their very own coins. By the time his daughter grew up, Paz said, "I got her collection and the bug of collecting these little treasures."

One great thing about pressed coin collecting is that it makes you part of a vibrant community. You get the enjoyment of making your own souvenir at the theme parks and other locations, and then you can get online and instantly connect with other enthusiasts. Paz said, "The internet has brought many collectors together. I've often heard 'I never knew anyone else collected them until I

found you online.'"

Novice collectors can get started for a very reasonable cost. The price to make your own coin starts at fifty-one cents. Collectible elongated coins often sell for just a few dollars on collectors' websites and online marketplaces like eBay. Older and rare coins, like those from the 1893 Columbian Exposition, can sell for \$100 to \$200 or more.



Chris Lloyd, left, and Craig Outler show off some pressed pennies near The Haunted Mansion. There's no age limit on the joy of pressing your own penny into a special souvenir.



GOLF COURSE,





POOL, LAKE OR TREETOPS ...

DISNEY'S SARATOGA SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA OFFERS LOTS TO DO AND A GREAT VIEW

Surrounded by a lushly landscaped golf course, Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort and Spa is a favorite for business travelers and for families alike. Although it's one of the Disney Vacation Club resorts, nightly stays are available for non-members as well. The theme throughout the resort is horse racing and with that comes a country club look and feel.

The resort offers many different overnight options, and the unique Treehouse Villas are ideal for large families or group gatherings. The deluxe studio rooms have one queen bed and one sleeper sofa; the one bedroom villa has a king bed and a sleeper sofa; and the two bedroom villas feature one king, two queens and a sofa bed. All the villas have either a kitchenette or a full kitchen. As this is a very large resort, the



The pathway to one of the Treehouse Villas.

Resort Report



The large main swimming pool at Saratoga Springs Resort. The spa is nearby.



This jockey and horse greet you near the lobby. The equestrian theme continues throughout the resort.

room views vary, from woodland, golf course, lake or pool.

The Treehouse Villas are nestled among the treetops – elevated 10 feet from the ground. Each features three bedrooms with flat screen televisions. Two of the bedrooms have a queen bed and one has bunk beds, with a queen sleeper sofa and a sleeper chair in the living room. They have two bathrooms, an open kitchen with granite countertops, counter seating for three and separate large dining table with seating for six. The living room also has a flat screen television and cathedral ceilings. Staying in the Treehouse is almost a separate experience from staying at Saratoga Springs. The area has its own

bus stops, boat stop and pool.

But the Treehouses share other amenities with Saratoga Springs. The Springs area has its own bus stops and boat transportation to Downtown Disney, but they also offer tennis courts, bike rentals, playground, spa, fitness center, fishing, basketball court, jogging trails, arcade and a large pool.

Although there is the option of making meals in your room, the resort also offers a few dining options. The Tuff Club Bar and Grill is a casual dining spot that specializes in flame-grilled burgers, steaks and chops. The Tuff Club Lounge and On The Rocks are for cocktails. Quick serve dining includes The Artist's Palette, the Paddock Grill and

Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort and Spa



PHOTO BY DISNEY

Saratoga Springs offers many different room sizes.



The Treehouse Villas are very spacious and are similar to the cabins at Fort Wilderness, but much more upscale.

The Backstretch Pool Bar. You can get souvenirs and necessities in the cute little gift shop near the main lobby.

Although the pools are the most popular recreation spots at the resort, there are many others. Besides the ones previously mentioned, there is the Saratoga Springs Campfire with free nightly movies plus ping-pong, foosball, arts and crafts, video and board games and more in The Community Hall. If that's not enough, Disney's Lake Buena Vista Golf Course is next door.

If you're in the mood to relax, the Senses Spa offers many different treatments including massage therapies, facial treatments, body therapies and wraps, wet relax-

ation space with a whirlpool, heated loungers, a steam room and a relaxation room. In keeping with the resorts equestrian theme, the spa decor and artwork capture the beauty of the American countryside. If you need a bit more to help you stay in shape, the resort offers a 24-hour fitness center with equipment and free weights.

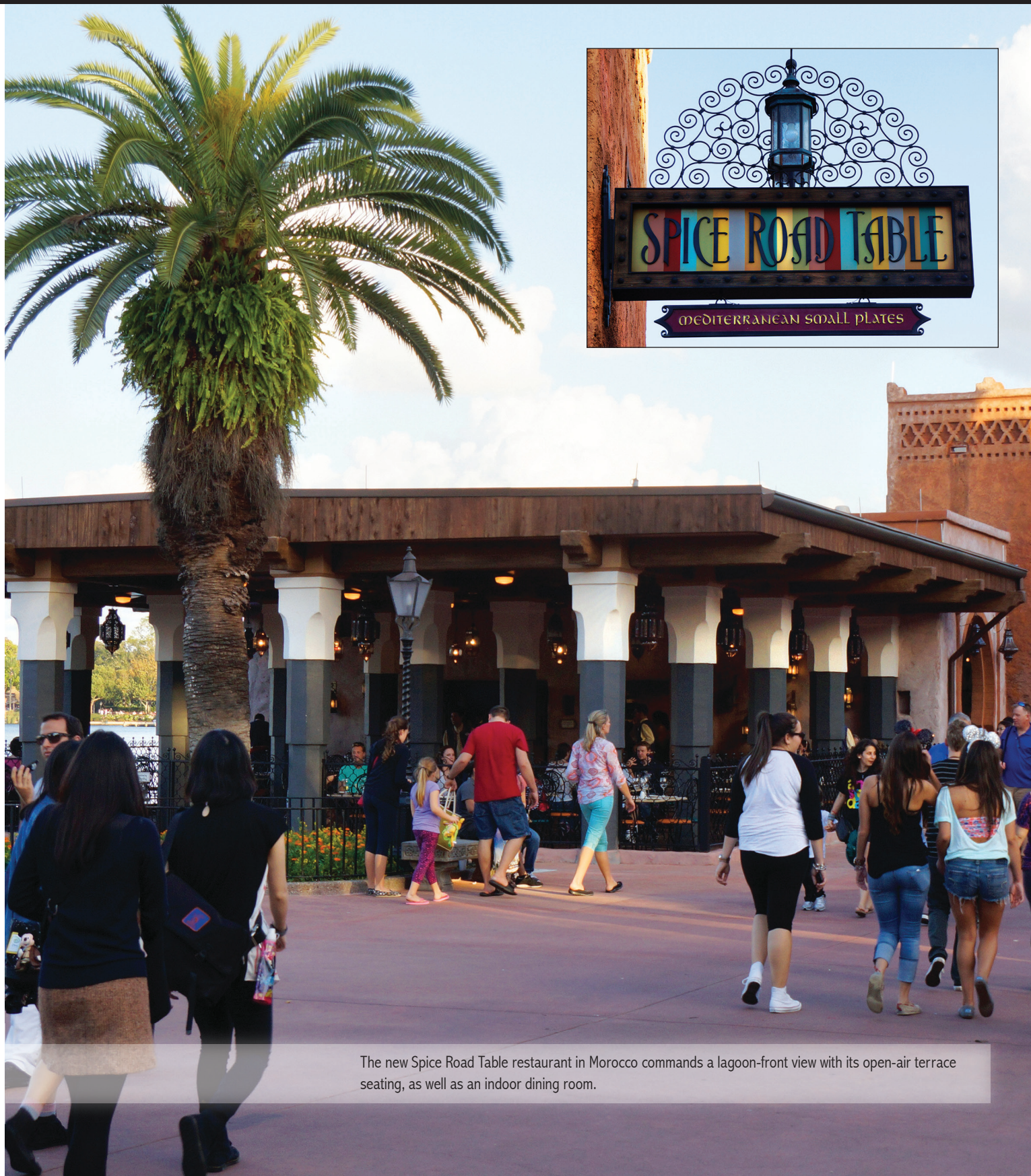
Although a bit on the pricey side, Saratoga Springs Resort and Spa has a lot to offer. With all the activities, you could never leave the resort and still have plenty to do. And if you do want to leave, the boat trip to Downtown Disney is fun and easy. Plus the Treehouse Villas are a one-of-a-kind experience.

Location: 1960 Broadway, Lake Buena Vista, Walt Disney World, across the lake from Downtown Disney

Prices: Starting at \$327 per night for a Studio, and \$709 per night for the Treehouse Villas.



This kids water play area is located next to one of the smaller pools at the resort.



The new Spice Road Table restaurant in Morocco commands a lagoon-front view with its open-air terrace seating, as well as an indoor dining room.



Pull Up a Seat

Spice Road Table is Morocco's Newest Spice Sensation

There was a time when empires were built and destroyed by spices. Continents were discovered, wars were fought and salaries were paid, all because of spices. Control the "spice road" and you control the world, or your part of the world, anyway. Kind of makes you respect that sprinkle of cinnamon on the top of your latte, doesn't it?

The days of Arabic spice traders spinning magnificent tales of battling dragons and demons to harvest their wares are over, but the myth and mystery surrounding the spice road — more accurately, the spice route through Asia, Africa, and Europe — remains, and it is from this time of intercultural exchange that Spice Road Table at Epcot's Morocco pavilion takes its name.

Epcot's new waterside restaurant's Executive Chef Samad Benzari began his Walt Disney World career as executive chef at Restaurant Marrakech in 2007, having spent 24 years in Washington D.C. at McCormick and Schmick's, Bistro Bistro, Village Bistro and capitol hill fixture La Colline.

Although he grew up in Montpellier in the south of France, Chef Benzari was born

in Morocco, so he knows a thing or two about the country's authentic cuisine. What's his secret? "Don't be cheap on spices in Moroccan food. That's the main advice I kept from my grandmother. If it calls for saffron, you have to use saffron. Don't be stingy with the spices."

The concept for Spice Road Table highlights a variety of cuisines along the Silk Road. Chef Benzari explained, "When we cook dishes from a place, such as Spain, we use the extra virgin olive oil from that country. For example, we took garlic shrimp from Spain and added spices to it to make it kind of Moroccan, but we cook it with

extra virgin olive oil from Spain. If I serve you hummus, I'm going to put Lebanese extra virgin olive oil in it. French olive oil is so thick it's like honey. There is a difference. That's the original idea of Spice Road Table."

Creating a varied small-plate menu took time and dedication, said Chef Benzari. "We tried a lot of tapas. For a year and half I cooked tapas for the owners and the chefs. Every Wednesday and Thursday we did tastings — we did more than 250 of them — just to try the dishes and ingredients. We kept around 30 or 40 dishes and that's the repertoire we have now. If something doesn't get



The outdoor terrace has a bustling but relaxed vibe.



Table Service



The indoor dining room features a wealth of authentic detail and original Moroccan craftsmanship, which adds to the overall ambiance.



PHOTO BY SIMON VENESS

The wait-staff are knowledgeable and helpful.

good feedback from guests, we'll put something else on. So far the feedback has been very positive."

Was there anything the chef was eager to put on the menu? "I like unusual stuff, like skate wings, beef tongues, ox tails; stuff you don't find on all the menus. I like to introduce people to those cuts of meat. People from the midwest would try beef tongue because they're used to beef, but some people would not like that. Some people are reluctant even to try our

lamb sausage, but it's a good way to introduce lamb. It's like street food, so it's very flavorful."

We asked the chef what surprised guests most about Moroccan food. "They think Moroccan food is spicy. It has a lot of spices, but it's not spicy, it's flavorful. Some dishes are spicy, but not too many. It's not like Mexican or South American food; we don't do that. Moroccan food is all about herbs and spices from Africa, Europe, but mostly from the Middle East, from the Orient. Morocco was on the Silk Road, so all the spices went from Middle East to Morocco, to the Moors, then to the north of Spain and the south of France. That's how Spain has saffron. The Moors brought it there."

Front-of-house staff at Spice Road Table are students from

Morocco, but the wait staff is culinary-trained and has extensive training in the fundamentals of each dish's ingredients, so guests can ask questions and order unfamiliar foods with confidence. We had no such reluctance, and dove right in.

Small plate dining is always a hit with us for the chance to try several different dishes and flavor combinations. Having chosen outdoor terrace seating rather than the indoor dining room, both of which are full service, we began with Hummus and Imported Olives, accompanied by za'atar flatbread and tiny piquant cornichons, followed by Rice Stuffed Grape Leaves. The addition of salty fried capers, sweet raisins, and a pop of nutmeg lent a distinctly pleasant sense of exotic Morocco to the grape leaves, decidedly different to the



PHOTO BY SIMON VENESS

A great way to get the full taste of the spice road countries is with a wine flight as well as a sampler platter.



If you only have time for a quick snack, don't miss the outdoor beverage and ice cream kiosk.

blander Greek-style dolmades most of us are used to.

The Tingis Sampler followed, a trio of succulent Lamb Sliders with dill and mint tzatziki on a brioche bun, Harissa Chicken Roll with spicy ketchup, and spicy Merguez Sausage, whose flavor developed slowly and beautifully across the palate. Next was the Mogador Sampler, with Mussels Tagine redolent with saffron and cilantro, Salted Cod Croquettes whose mild flavor was enhanced by black olive aioli, and the most melt-in-the-mouth Fried Calamari we've had in forever. Our server, Siraj, was a wealth of knowledge and knew exactly how to pair each dish with wine, suggesting we try the Mediterranean Wine Flights with three reds and three whites from Morocco, Turkey, and Lebanon, and he was absolutely right. It was a choice that allowed us to experience the changing flavor of the wine with each dish we tasted.

Our meal ended with Moroccan coffee, the airy delight of a Chocolate Pyramid mousse and a sensational Saffron and Lemon Custard. Don't be afraid of it; this is one magnificent dessert, with a breath of saffron, a wallop of lemon and then a final kiss of saffron in each bite. We came away feeling we had truly savored a taste from the spice road's table.

Chef Benzari hopes guests will also take away a sense of Morocco's beauty when they leave the restaurant. "I hope they will appreciate the whole design, the colors, the richness and the elaborate crafts of Morocco."

The restaurant has a magnificent view of World Showcase lagoon, but viewing for IllumiNations is limited. Even so, Spice Road Table is an ideal evening venue for sharing a few tasty bites, a toast or two with a specialty cocktail, or a fine Mediterranean beer or wine, and the camaraderie of good friends.

Spice Road Table

Location: Epcot's Morocco pavilion in Walt Disney World

Price Range:

Entrees: \$7-\$12;

tapas trio platters \$16

Desserts: \$7

Contact: 407-939-3463

Online: disneyworld.com

(reservations are not accepted at this time)

Hours: 11 a.m. to park closing

Spice Road Table is not on the Disney Dining Plan and does not accept Tables in Wonderland at this time.



PHOTO BY SIMON VENESS

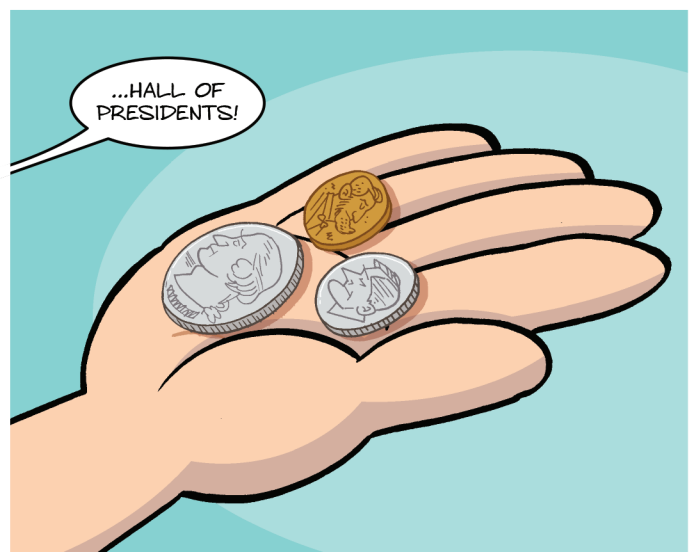
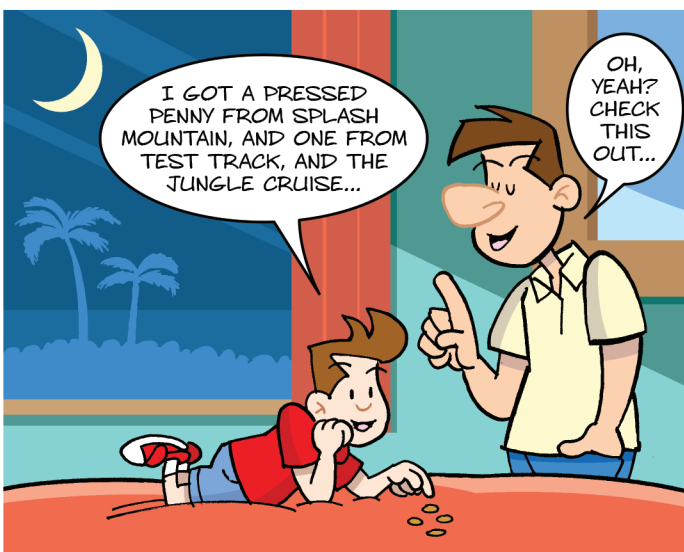
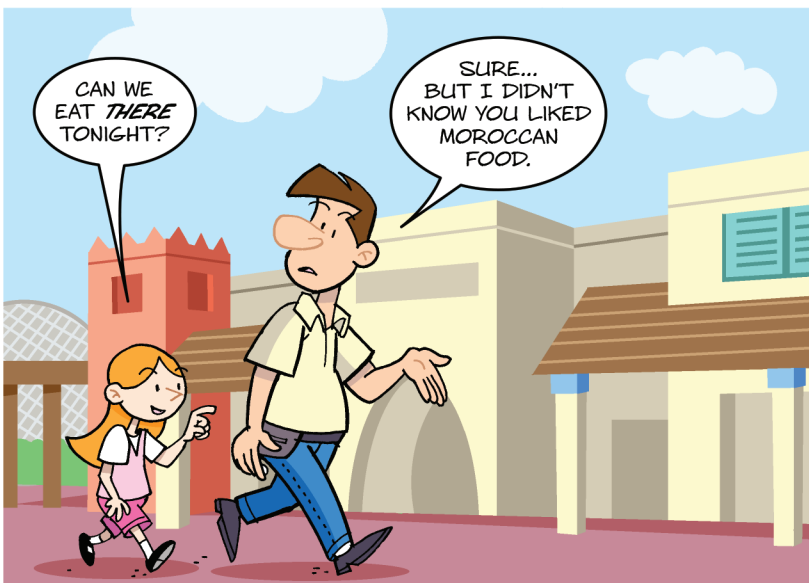
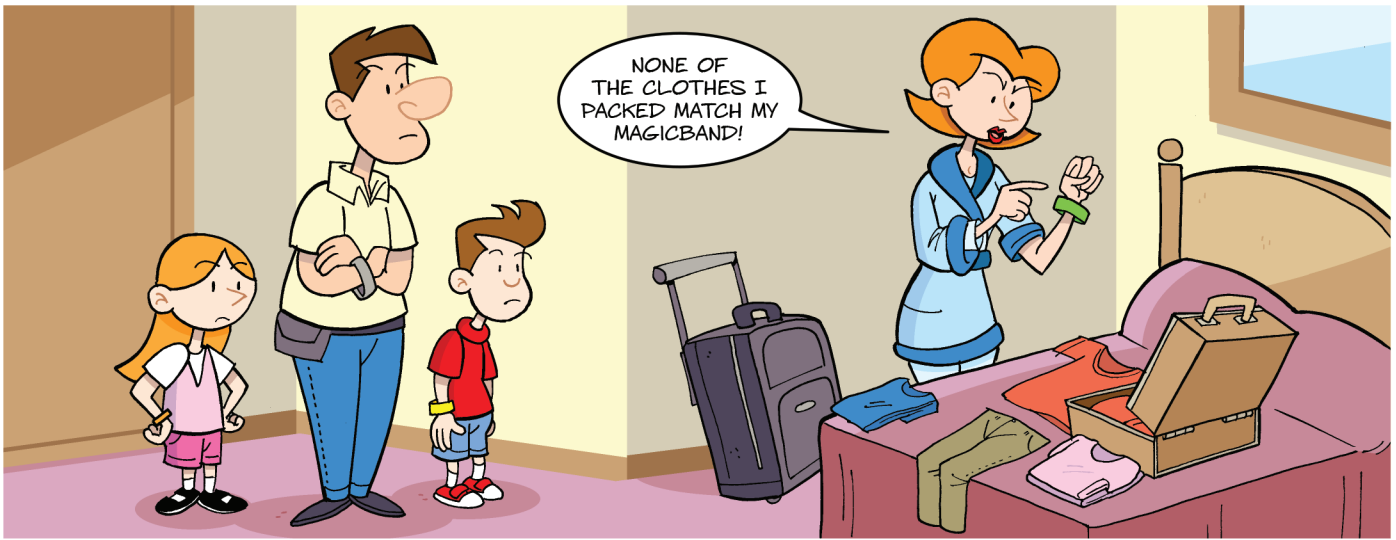
The Tingis and Mogador Sampler Platters provide a tempting array of dishes, highlighting the flavorful complexity of the main menu.



Make sure you specify you'd like a window table if you want to try to catch the fireworks during dinner.

BEAMUSEMENT PARK

by John Green
& Pat Lewis



SPOT the DIFFERENCE

Mary Poppins and Bert wave to guests at the Magic Kingdom during the very last run of the Celebrate a Dream Come True Parade. By the time you're reading this, the new Festival of Fantasy Parade will have debuted.

Can you find 10 differences in the bottom photo?



1. A daisy is missing from the top of Mary's hat. 2. The parrot handle on Mary's umbrella is facing the opposite direction. 3. The red ball behind Bert's back is now facing the opposite direction. 4. Bert has two button holes on his jacket instead of just one. 5. The bottom button on Mary's red jacket has disappeared. 6. The clock (mid left) is missing the number 11. 7. Bert's sideburns have grown longer. 8. The chimney pipes (bottom right) are shorter. 9. Two red bricks on the chimney (bottom left) have merged into one. 10. The lamp (behind Mary) now has Mickey ears on the globe.



The Rumor Queue:

Avatar, Frozen, Dragons and More

If you wish to submit a rumor or offer feedback, please send an email to rumors@attractionsmagazine.com. You may remain anonymous.

Hello, fellow theme park connoisseurs! Welcome to another exciting addition of "The Rumor Queue". Each month, we filter all the rumors swirling about the industry and deliver them to you in one convenient place.

Disclaimer: The thoughts expressed here are not purported as fact and should be viewed as rumor until officially confirmed or denied by the companies mentioned.

Avatar Boat Excursion

A Soarin'-esque attraction for the Avatar expansion has made the rounds since the land's unveiling, but another attraction was also revealed: a boat ride through Pandora. Additional rumored details concerning it recently caught our attention.

During the early conception phases of Disney's Animal Kingdom, Imagineers intended on placing mythological creatures into the short-lived Discovery River Boats attraction. Another attraction would have also been included in this expansion: A boat ride through the mythological creatures and animals featured in "Fantasia".

This boat ride through the bioluminescent forest of Pandora is said to incorporate elements of the "Fantasia" and Discovery River Boats attraction plans. Imagineers also hope to include thrilling elements to make it on par with a modern version of Pirates of The Caribbean, such as a drop or two.

25 Years: A Universal Studios Exhibit

The Garden of Allah buildings at Universal Studios have stood vacant for far

too long. In the park's early years, the location was used for AT&T's rotating At The Movies exhibit.

To celebrate the park's 25th year of operation, The Garden of Allah Villas may be renovated to make way for a museum, collecting the assortment of props Universal has accumulated along the way. But we've heard it won't just be props from former attractions. Guests will also be able to learn the history surrounding the park's conception. The museum is also rumored to boast a rotating exhibit to host props from Universal's impressive library of films, both new and old.

To accompany this addition, the Superstar Parade will see modifications and additional floats, as well as a tweaked route. A fresh evening show involving the technology embedded into Universal's lagoon is also being tossed around the rumor-sphere.

Frozen to replace Maelstrom in Epcot?

Imagineers are rumored to be in the "blue sky" phase now that "Frozen" has hit theaters with a smashing box office take and a positive critical consensus. The production team borrowed heavily from the nature and culture of Norway to create the fictitious kingdom of Arendelle. This would explain the talks said to be happening concerning the Maelstrom ride in the Norway pavilion. As mentioned, work is still in the preliminary phase.

We've heard three directions are being considered:

- An entirely new ride based on the ani-

mated movie, requiring the demolition and retheming of the interior and exterior (think: The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh at Magic Kingdom).

- A middle-of-the-road refurbishment with significant interior changes, story alterations and a refreshed exterior and queue (think: Test Track at Epcot).
- A minor refresh with the placement of characters, but things left relatively the same (think: It's a Small World at Disneyland).

Alternatively, an entirely different ride could be conceptualized.

How to Train Your Dragon at Universal Studios

We're not privy to the exact terms of Universal's agreement with DreamWorks and its licensing of "Shrek", but Universal Creative has allegedly mulled over some properties for use in the event of Shrek 4-D's closure. One stuck out to us.

Given Universal's healthy relationship with DreamWorks, "How to Train Your Dragon" stands as a potential contender. The property's first film was a success both critically and financially. Two installments are in the works with an animated series that has spawned 40 episodes as of print.

Retrofitting "How to Train Your Dragon" into the existing venue wouldn't be as challenging as building an entirely new attraction. The rapid construction of Transformers: The Ride - 3D, however, has shown Universal is capable and willing to make drastic changes to its limited space.

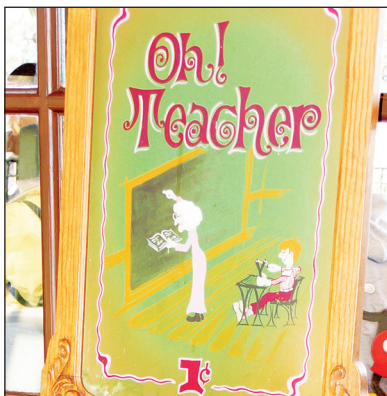
MYSTERY PHOTO

The deadline for entries is May 10, 2014. One answer allowed per person, per issue. Please include your name and mailing address with your answer. Everyone who submits the correct location will go into a drawing. One person, randomly selected from all the correct entries, will win a prize. We reserve the right to publish the name, city and state of those entering. One winner per household allowed per year.

WIN A PRIZE!

Tell us the location of this photo and you could win a prize! To enter, e-mail your answer, along with your name and mailing address to mystery@attractionsmagazine.com.

Hint: This location is mentioned elsewhere in this issue.



LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY PHOTO ANSWER

We only had two correct responses to last issue's Mystery Photo location. And the luck of the draw goes to Jacqueline Boudrot from Danvers, Mass.

This Lego dinosaur can be seen at Legoland Florida while loading onto the Coastersaurus ride.

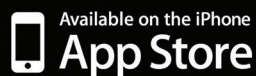


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Attractions News from Outside the Orlando Area



Schlitterbahn's Verrückt to be World's Tallest Water Slide

Kansas City, Kan. — Schlitterbahn has long been synonymous with water park innovation. While they're well rooted in Texas with three locations and one on the way, they own a major water park-based resort property in Kansas City. This summer, a record-breaking water slide is coming to Kansas. Verrückt will be the tallest water slide in the world. The slide is described as taller than Niagara Falls and more than twice as big as the biggest wave ever surfed. Riders will climb flights and flights of stairs before boarding an inflatable raft with three friends. Riders careen down a gigantic hill before being propelled back up a five-story second hill and then back down before finally coming to rest in the exit zone. Verrückt is expected to open in 2014.

Shanghai Disney Resort Reaches Construction Milestones

Shanghai, China — Two construction milestones were reached in January at the Shanghai Disney Resort. The first of its Disney-themed hotels "topped out", meaning construction has reached its maximum height. The hotel will have 800 rooms on seven floors, many with views of the park, the shopping area (its name has not been announced) and/or the resort's central lake. Additionally, construction on the park's "mountain" has begun. This mountain will be within the Magic Kingdom-style park. It will be

the second tallest structure in the park after the Enchanted Storybook Castle. The Shanghai Disney Resort is said to be on track for its end of 2015 opening.

Knott's Berry Farm Celebrates 30 Years of Camp Snoopy

Buena Park, Calif. — The much-loved Camp Snoopy section of Knott's Berry Farm turns 30 years old in 2014. To celebrate, Knott's has announced new attractions for the area. Charlie Brown's Kite Flyer will be a traditional spinning swing ride. Pig Pen's Mud Buggies will spin, bounce and bump riders in four-seat ATVs. Finally, Linus Launcher will be a high-flying spinner where riders lay belly down, headfirst and side-by-side on the ride vehicle. In addition to the new rides, the whole area will be spruced up. More details regarding the area will emerge in the coming weeks.



Angry Birds Coming to Thorpe Park

Surrey, U.K. — About 25 miles outside London, Thorpe is one of the United Kingdom's top attractions. Owned by Merlin, who also owns Legoland parks around the world, Thorpe is a thrill seeker's dream boasting seven coasters and many more thrill rides. This spring, the park will open a brand new themed land. This Angry Birds land will cover about an acre. The centerpiece of the area will be the Angry Birds 4D Experience Theater that will house a new 10-minute movie that will seek to immerse guests in the world of the Angry Birds and their nemesis pigs. Other themed attractions will open including a birds vs. pigs bumper cars ride. The area is expected to open in May.



Holiday World to Expand Thanksgiving Area

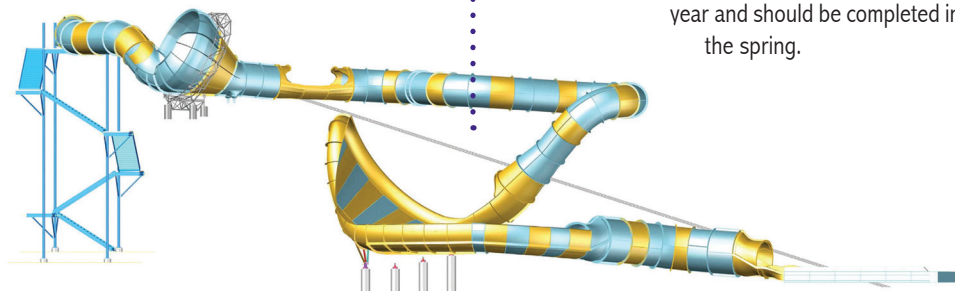
Santa Claus, Ind. — It was 2006 when Holiday World expanded their dry land park to include a Thanksgiving themed area. In addition to being able to eat Thanksgiving dinner in that area, one can ride a turkey-themed shooting dark ride and take a dizzying spin with a few spinning turkeys on a teacup style ride. The biggest reason to visit this area of the park is to take a ride on the wooden Voyage roller coaster. Over the years, management has received dozens of suggestions to add a swinging ship ride and call it the Mayflower. Well those suggestions will become reality. Riders will be swung 50 feet over a pool of water. Additionally, a total of \$8 million in improvements will be made. These include a new shop and restaurant in the water park, more shaded areas, including a covered bridge at the entrance to Thanksgiving, as well as parking improvements.



SeaWorld San Diego to Open Explorer's Reef

San Diego, Calif. — It has been 16 months and millions of dollars in the making. SeaWorld San Diego's entrance experience will not only function practically to get guests into the park quicker, it will try to immerse guests in an underwater world as soon as they walk through the doors. "Beach-themed concierge-style" ticket areas will replace glass enclosed ticket booths. The actual entrance consists of a 30-foot-tall wave structure that guests walk below, giving the impression of entering an underwater world. Entering the actual exhibit, guests will be able to get up-close and personal at a 24,000-gallon

touch pool. Four hundred sharks, 4,000 cleaner fish and hundreds more fish will be in the pool. The exhibit covers more than three acres. The area is expected to be open when you read this.



Hersheypark to Add Family Fun in 2014

Hershey, Penn. — Hersheypark will add three new family attractions in 2014. The Cocoa Cruiser may be a perfect first coaster ride for Hershey Kiss height kids (i.e. 36 to 42 inches tall). Parents can ride with their little "Kiss". The Tea Cups are a ride that needs no explanation. The Sweet Swing is also a Hershey Kiss-sized ride. Two new eateries round out the additions to the park in 2014.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg to Add Colossal Curl

Williamsburg, Va. — Water Country USA is Busch Gardens Williamsburg's water park. This year they will add a first-of-its-kind water slide. The Colossal Curl will be a four-person clover tube water ride. Riders will initially be sent into a side-to-side funnel element before making their way through tubes, then ending with a wave wall feature. Essentially, it will string together water slide elements previously seen in separate attractions. The ride will have a 48 inch height requirement. Construction began earlier this year and should be completed in the spring.



Out of the Loop Twitter Feed

For more ongoing coverage of news out of the Central Florida loop, follow me on Twitter @AttractionsOOTL. Also follow our main Twitter feed @Attractions.

Lights, Camera, Attraction!



Universal Studios Florida



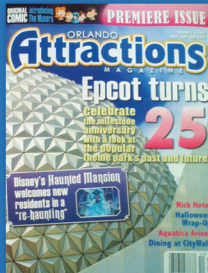
The "Back to the Future" ride may be gone, but the popular movie is still represented in the park. Besides the DeLorean and train engine time machines on display near The Simpsons area, you may run into Doc Brown roaming the park. Sometimes he's walking and sometimes he's on his "new" time machine bicycle. The day we saw him, he was feeding a four-legged friend. We're not sure what year Doc picked up the squirrel.

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